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28

Organizations

Town

Island Home

Police

Cemeteries

Fire

(57)

SCRAP BOOK

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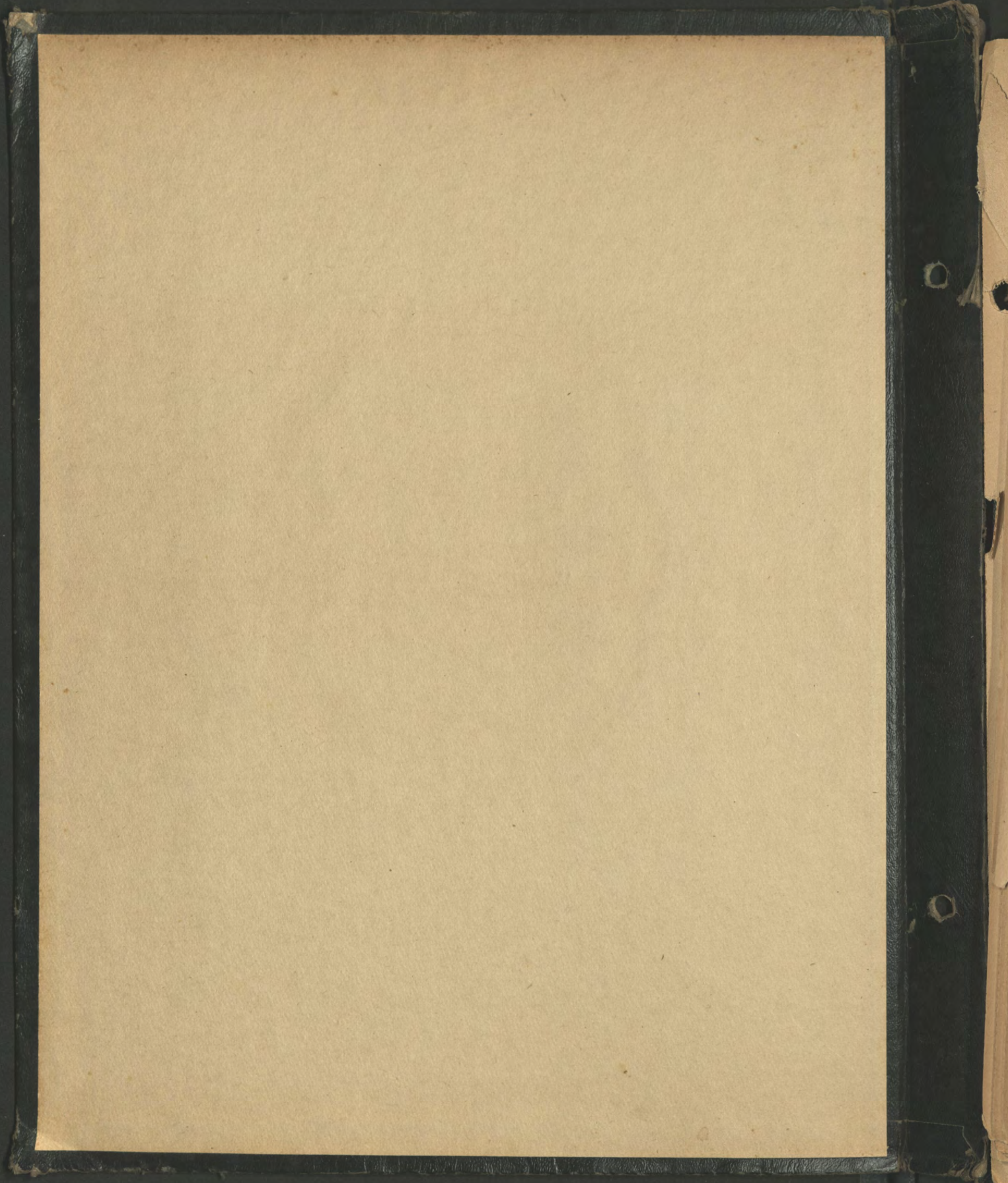
28

Organizations VII-

Town, Police, Fire,

Island Home,

Cemeteries



ORGANIZATIONS

V.

Police
Fire
Town Island Home
Cemeteries

NANTUCKET POLICE

Local Force Had Its First "Chief" Fifty Years Ago.
Constables and "Evening Watch" Gradually
Transformed Into the "Civil Service."

The placing of the police officers under Civil Service last year has given rise to several questions in relation to the police department. From reference to our files and the Annual Town Reports, we find numerous matters of interest in this connection. For instance:

Nantucket has had a "police force" just half a century, for prior to 1886 the guardians of peace in the town were "constables," who were elected annually by the voters—usually six in number. As was the custom in most towns of that day, constables enacted the duties of police officers in the early days and were the authorized representatives of law and order. It was before the advent of the District Court, when cases were heard by "Trial Justices" of whom there were several in Nantucket at one time. The Sheriff and the Superior Court handled the important cases, of course, but the Constables and the Trial Justices for many years held sway over petty misdemeanors, charges of drunkenness, etc.

The first organized police force was appointed in 1886, with Alexander C. Swain as chief. He had the authority to select his own patrolmen, or "evening watch," as they were called, with the approval of the Selectmen, who at that time were Henry Riddell, Hiram C. Folger, John W. Hallett, Henry C. Pinkham and William W. McIntosh. The total cost of the police department that year reached \$2,809.50. Evidently the voters and taxpayers were satisfied with the manner in which Chief Swain conducted the department as he was continued in service each year



THE LATE OWEN HOLLAND, JR.
Who died May 30, 1906, at the age of thirty-eight. He was one of Nantucket's popular Chiefs.

until and including 1890. In making his first report to the town, Chief Swain said:

"Fifty-six persons have been arrested from March 1, 1886, to January 1, 1887. Five persons have been discharged under Rule 5 (whatever that may have been); there were ten complaints made and seventeen persons were convicted. The cases were as follows:

Drunkenness 9, assault and battery 7, larceny 2, insanity 2, breaking and entering 5, suspicion 2, malicious mischief 7, illegal sale of liquors 1, slander 1, debt 1, tramps 2, assisted home 16, drunken assault 1.

"It is my opinion that the present force is amply sufficient for all practical purposes during the winter months, but I think that during the summer season, when we have so large a floating population, there should be at least two day patrolmen upon the streets, whose duties shall be general police duty."

It may be noted that Chief Swain's report shows that there were 16 cases where offenders were "assisted home", which was a mild way of saying that offenders were persons "under the influence" who could not navigate a straight course when bound home. The Chief of 1886 in his report refers to the floating population of the summer and recommends at least two day officers, showing that at that time (long before the advent of automobiles) the summer business brought its problems, just as it does today.

Since the appointment of Alexander C. Swain in 1886, Nantucket has had twelve Chiefs of Police, in the following order:

1886-1890—Alexander C. Swain.
1891-1892—John Roberts.
1893-1900—Horace G. Norcross.
1901-1906—Owen Holland, Jr.
(Died May 30, 1906.)
1906-1910—Arthur C. Cary.
1911—Orison V. Hull (until October 4.)
1911—Walter E. Kelley (from October 4.)
1912—Everett H. Bowen (resigned April 1, 1912.)
1912-1913—Samuel T. Burgess (resigned August 20, 1913).
1913-1929—Houghton Gibbs.
1930-1931—Arthur R. Callwitz.
1932-1934—Houghton Gibbs (died August 26, 1934).
1934-1937—Lawrence F. Mooney (now under Civil Service).

From the above it will seem that Houghton Gibbs filled the position of Chief of Police longer than anyone



LAWRENCE F. MOONEY

The present Chief of Police, who has been a member of the Police Department since 1912.

else, serving seventeen years in succession the first time and three years subsequently, until his death.

In addition to the above (who became chiefs) the following have served "on the force" as patrolmen:

Barzillai S. Coffin.
Jonathan O. Freeman.
Calvin C. Hamblin.
William A. Folger.
Joseph A. Johnson, Jr.
William E. Small.
Frank E. Carle.
Charles C. Chadwick.
Samuel C. H. Kelley.
Carll Appleton.
James H. Garnett.
Charles W. Thurber.
Franklin S. Chadwick (now sergeant).
William J. Henderson.
Patrick W. Dooling.
Wendell Howes.
Le Baron Ray.
Charles F. Handy.

Among those who have served as "summer police" are the following:

Peter L. Sylvia, Jr.—1903-4-5.
Charles W. Smith—1906.
James Valentine Small—1907-8.
Orison V. Hull—1909-10.
Walter E. Kelley—1911.
John R. Mooney—1912.
Everett H. Bowen—1913-14-15-16.
William J. Blair—1919-1920.
James H. Garnett—1921.
Samuel T. Burgess—1922-3-4-5-6 (died May 9, 1926).
Arthur R. Callwitz—1926.
James H. Garnett—1927-28..

Others who have served as summer police are Irving E. Sandsbury, William Cosmos, Lincoln Porte, Theodore Newcomb, Arthur B. Tunning, Jr., Byron Snow, Wendell Howes.

Lawrence Mooney first joined the force as a patrolman back in 1912. He was made Sergeant in 1930 and Chief in 1934.



Photo by Boyer.

A characteristic pose of the late Chief, Houghton Gibbs, standing on duty at the corner of Main and Federal streets. Chief Gibbs passed away on August, 1934, after many years of faithful and efficient service in the police department.

Charles C. Chadwick came on the force as patrolman in 1914, serving until 1917, when he went to war. During his absence Samuel C. H. Kelley and Carl Appleton took his place on the force.

Arthur Callwitz joined the force in 1926 as day officer, serving as Chief in 1930 and 1931.

Franklin Stuart Chadwick came on the force as patrolman in 1930 and was appointed Sergeant in 1934.

William Henderson joined the force as patrolman in 1932 and has served continuously until granted leave of absence, on account of his health.

Since 1905 the village of Siasconset has had the services of a police officer during the summer months. The first to hold that position was Frank W. Gardner, Jr. The present officer is Earl C. Blount. Those who have served in 'Sconset are the following:

Frank W. Gardner, Jr.—1905.
Thomas H. Clifton—1906-7-8.
Walter E. Kelley—1909.
Houghton Gibbs—1910.
Walter E. Kelley—1911.
Arthur C. Folger, 2d—1912.
Houghton Gibbs—1913.

Arthur C. Folger, 2d—1914-15-16.
Jesse H. Eldredge—from 1917 to his death in November, 1935.
Earl C. Blount—since November, 1935.

There have been numerous special police officers appointed each year, but these have not been listed as regular members of the force.

Also, there have been a number of "day officers" in the village of 'Sconset, among them being Lincoln Lewis, Theodore Newcomb, Kenneth Eldredge, Patrick Dooling.

Each year since 1900 the Selectmen have appointed some man to serve as police officer at Muskeget, at a salary of \$100, such a position being required by law for the protection of gulls during the nesting season. Among those who have held this \$100 job at Muskeget were the following: John R. Sandsbury, Edward F. Snow, Leander Small, Charles C. Eldridge, Jr., George E. Coffin, Edwin Abbott, and Marcus W. Dunham, who has held the plum each year since his first appointment in 1920.

One hundred years ago, in 1836, the Constables elected by the annual town meeting were: David Allen, Sylvanus Allen, Peter Russell, Uriah Gardner, Francis Chase, Wm. Brooks, Frederick T. Parker, Wm. Parker.

In 1851, eighty-six years ago, the Constables were: Samuel H. Winslow, Robert Folger, Caleb Cushman, Alexander Ray, Benjamin Lawrence, Daniel Dunham, Joseph Hamblin, Aaron Swain, Freeman Atkins, George Pollard, William Cobb.

During the 1850's the above served continuously, with the addition of Benjamin Ray, Jared W. Tracy, Jesse Baker and George W. Haggerty.

The cost of maintaining the "Evening Watch" varied but little. In 1854 it was \$2,835.84, and a year later it was \$3,093.48. For over a quarter of a century the yearly cost approximated this figure.

MARCH 20, 1937.

Chief Mooney Has Been With Police Dept. 37 Years.

Chief Lawrence F. Mooney, Jr., on Friday observed the completion of his thirty-seventh year in the Nantucket Police Dept. It was in 1912—on the first of April—that the Chief, then a young man of twenty-five, joined the Department as a patrolman. In that year, the late Everett Bowen and Joseph A. Johnson, Jr., were successive chiefs of the depart-



CHIEF LAWRENCE F. MOONEY, JR.

ment, being succeeded, upon their resignation, by the late Samuel T. Burgess.

During the next twenty-two years, Mooney served as night officer and as sergeant, and in 1933 he was appointed Chief to succeed Houghton Gibbs, who died in office.

Chief Lawrence F. Mooney has the further distinction of having served the town longer than any other official in the history of the Police Department. He also has the longest period of service of any of the present town officials.

April 2, 1949

Chief Mooney Presented Gifts at Farewell Ceremony.

On Wednesday evening, at the Selectmen's rooms, a group of town officials gathered to witness a simple but impressive farewell tribute to Chief Lawrence F. Mooney, who was retiring that evening after thirty-nine years as a member of the Nantucket Police Department.

Irving A. Soverino, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, called Chief Mooney forward and, presenting him an envelope, stated:

"Chief Mooney, on behalf of the inhabitants of the Town of Nantucket, it is my privilege to present you with this little gift. It is a token of the esteem in which we, as Selectmen of the Town, feel for you, and which we know the people of Nantucket also feel for you. Now that you have retired from your long years of faithful service, we wish you many years of happiness."

Chief Mooney replied: "I never was much of a speech-maker, but I want to thank you all for this gathering and gift. When I joined the police force in 1912, I never thought of growing old—but, here I am, retiring after thirty-nine years of it, I think I can truthfully say that I am leaving the police department with the members of the force still being my friends. And I think I can say the same thing about the people of the town."

Clerk of Courts Wesley Fordyce then stepped forward.

"Chief Mooney," he said, "being such a good citizen in doing your duty as Chief of Police of the years, we, of the Town's Building offices, would like to show our affection for you as a man and as a police chief. On behalf of the several officials in the building I present you this token as a gift which symbolizes our esteem."



LAWRENCE F. MOONEY

When he became Chief of Police in 1934. He joined the "force" in 1912.

Clerk Fordyce handed Chief Mooney a gift from the town officials whose offices are in the Town Building.

Following his expression of thanks to Mr. Fordyce, Chief Mooney called Sergeant and Acting Chief F. Stuart Chadwick to come forward. Taking a key-ring from his pocket, he said, with considerable feeling: "Sergeant Chadwick, I would like to hand over to you these keys which I have used these many years. In presenting them to you I know that they are in good hands."

Sergeant Chadwick, his voice showing his emotion, so natural under the circumstances, took the keys and expressed his appreciation to Chief Mooney for his confidence.

Secretary James Glidden, of the Selectmen, took flash-bulb pictures of the highlights of the ceremony.

Present at the ceremony were Selectmen Irving Soverino, James K. Glidden, Ernest R. Coffin and Allen Holdgate, Clerk of Courts Wesley A. Fordyce, Assessors George W. Jones and George E. Grimes, Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright, Tax Collector C. Ray Morris, Supt. of Highways Matthew L. Jaekle, Supt. of Schools Richard J. Porter, Corporal Edgar Lindstrom of the State Police, Walter M. Rounsville, Henry B. Coleman and John L. Hardy of the Airport Commission, Sergeant F. Stuart Chadwick, and Patrolmen William Henderson, Wendell Howes, Richard Barrett, Fred Furlong and Elwyn Francis, Jr., of the Nantucket Police Department, Local Registry of Motor Vehicles official James Rafuse, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Indio, and Edouard Stackpole.

March 3, 1951

Chief Mooney Retires From The Nantucket Police Force.

Next Wednesday, February 28, Police Chief Lawrence F. Mooney will retire from duty after thirty-nine years of service with the Nantucket Police Force.

Mr. Mooney was born in Nantucket on February 6, 1886, the son of Lawrence F. and Margaret (Donahue) Mooney. He attended the Nantucket schools, following which he worked with his father on the Mooney Farm on the Polpis Road. His grandfather, Robert F. Mooney, of Dublin, Ireland, was shipwrecked on the English ship "British Queen" on Tuckernuck Shoals on December 18, 1851. The quarterboard of that ship is one of Chief Mooney's prized possessions, and occupies a prominent position on the outside of his house on West Chester street.

In 1912 Mr. Mooney was appointed a Patrolman on the Nantucket Police Force, filling a vacancy which occurred in April of that year. In the annual election of 1914 he was elected a Constable of the town of Nantucket, a position which he held until this past week.

In 1930 Patrolman Mooney was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and, in 1934, following the death of Chief Houghton Gibbs, he became Chief of Police, in which capacity he has served the town faithfully for seventeen years.



He married the former Ethel L. Foley, of Taunton, on June 12, 1930. They have one son, Robert Francis, who is a graduate of Nantucket High School, class of 1948, and will graduate from Holy Cross College in Worcester in 1952.

Chief Mooney is a member of St. Mary's Church, John B. Chace Engine Co. No. 4, the Pacific Club, and of the Association of Chiefs of Police (International).

Feb. 24, 1951

Wendell Howes, Chief of Police.

The appointment of Wendell Howes to the position of Chief of Police in Nantucket, which was made by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on Wednesday, March 26, was approved by the Civil Service Commission last month.

Mr. Howes was born in Nantucket on November 30, 1914, the son of Frederick W. and Catherine T. Howes. A graduate of Nantucket High School, class of 1932, he married the former Maximille T. Paradis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Paradis, on June 22, 1938. They have three daughters, Margo 10, Wendy 6, and Maxine 4. They live at 52½ Pleasant street.

Chief of Police Howes joined the Nantucket Police Force as a patrolman on June 28, 1936.



Photo by Christman

CHIEF OF POLICE WENDELL HOWES

The Nantucket Police Force now includes Chief of Police Howes, Sergeant F. Stuart Chadwick, William Henderson, Richard C. Barrett, John E. Gibbs, Elwyn R. Francis, Jr., and Roland Huyser. Charles Handy is the 'Sconset member of the Police Force, on night duty, and will be joined during the summer months by Lincoln E. Lewis as day police officer.

Mr. Huyser, who is the newest member of the Nantucket Police Force, is serving on temporary duty, pending official notification that he has passed the necessary physical requirements for the position. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett G. Huyser, of Nantucket, and is a veteran of the Korean War.

May 10, 1952

Lawrence F. Mooney.

Lawrence F. Mooney, Chief of Police in Nantucket for twenty-seven years, passed away at the Nantucket Cottage Hospital Friday morning, February 20, after a comparatively brief illness.

Mr. Mooney was born in Nantucket on February 6, 1886, the son of Lawrence F. and Margaret (Donahue) Mooney. He attended the Nantucket schools, following which he worked with his father on their farm on the Polpis Road.



In 1912 he became a Patrolman on the Nantucket Police Force, being advanced to Sergeant in 1930. In 1934 he became Chief, a position which he held until February 20, 1951, when he retired from the Force. From 1914 until 1951 he held the position of Constable for the Town of Nantucket.

On June 12, 1930, he married the former Ethel L. Foley, of Taunton, who survives him. He also leaves a son, Robert F. Mooney, a graduate of Nantucket High School and of Holy Cross College, and now an Ensign in the United States Navy. A sister, Mrs. Margaret (Mooney) Conneaney, lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Mooney was a member of St. Mary's Church, of J. B. Chace Engine Co. No. 4, the Pacific Club, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Funeral services will be held at 9:00 o'clock Monday morning at St. Mary's Church.

Feb. 21, 1953

Police Set to Entertain In New Headquarters.

Installed with "tout confort" for temporary guests, Nantucket's new police station was inaugurated on Wednesday, without a single prisoner, by Chief Wendell T. Howes and a number of interested townsmen. This also happened to be a day without a single case for the regular sitting of the District Court.

However, four cells, two for each sex, are available whenever the need arises on what is usually a peaceful island. Chief Howes looks most imposing in a new office of his own, the first time the head of the department has ever had one. A main office takes care of general business. An examination room is a new wrinkle here. Brand-new furniture was made by state prison inmates.

Moving started on Wednesday. The seven-man town force on regular duty winters did much of the work on the one-story, Nantucket-type structure, doubling as diggers, masons, carpenters and painters. Paul Frye, a deputy sheriff, was the contractor. It was quite a sight all spring to see the police force in overalls doing all sorts of odd jobs that in the aggregate saved the town a lot of money. Their spirit brought lots of compliments.

The old quarters, consisting of a cramped, cluttered room for all hands and a primitive room with two cells in the brick town building off Main Street between Union and Washington Streets, will be used by the town treasurer as an extension to his office.

Last fall, the chief thought of seeking permission to use the public information building near fire headquarters as a new station. The old quarters had been inadequate for years. Then he saw that this would not be a solution for lack of space. He sat down, exasperated, and drew a rough sketch of what he really would like in the way of a new building. MacMillan Clements of Danbury, Conn., who was commodore of the Yacht Club and who makes stainless steel and aluminum sections for the government housing in Alaska and elsewhere, looked at the sketch. He followed up with blueprints and encouragement for the new venture.

Chief Howes wheedled \$10,500 in a town appropriation for the building, in which Clements metal sections would be used. The site chosen was in the rear of Fire headquarters. Work started on March 12 with the felling of trees on the lot. From then on, police could be found there, off-duty and as volunteers, helping to build their new home. Its official cost figure is \$9000. Actually, it could not be built for such a sum—a tribute to the generosity of those interested in the venture and to the labor of the force.

The station is 24 feet by 36 feet on the ground. It probably represents the biggest bargain on Nantucket this year.

The color scheme for the shingled exterior is natural wood, which will weather in time but now looks yellow, and gray trim. Inside, the metal walls have been painted with something new—speckled paint. This gives a minute spatter effect and was speckle-sprayed on by machine—a very neat finish that has much to recommend it over the old method of flicking a loaded brush onto wall or floor with most of the paint going onto the painter.

New Nantucket Police Station Opened



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

July 15, 1953



The photograph shows interior of new police station recently completed at Nantucket, on East Chestnut Street. It contains four cells as well as administrative offices. Police Chief Wendell Howes is at his desk. Patrolmen William J. Henderson, left, and Richard Barrett, right, are seated near radio equipment.

(Photo by the Snap Shop, Nantucket)

Nantucket has just a new police station in community building on East Chestnut Street. The building contains four cells, a police reception room, and a Chief's office. Howes is in the building with the show front. Sergeant Stuart Chadwick and Chief Howes; Patrolmen Elwyn F. Williams, Henderson, Richard Barrett, and John G.

Nantucket Gets New Police Cruiser



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

Nantucket police are set for the Summer rush with a new police cruiser of ranch-wagon type. It is the first completely equipped cruiser the department has had. In addition to the

short-wave radio equipment, it has an amplifier on the right fender. Police Chief Wendall H. Howes displays the new vehicle parked in front of the Nantucket Police Station.

May 27, 1954

Sudden Death of Officer Samuel T. Burgess.

Samuel T. Burgess, who has served as Nantucket's day police officer for a number of years, died suddenly last Sunday afternoon from a heart attack, brought on by the exertion incident to making an arrest. He had not been in the best of health for several months, having suffered an attack of influenza which incapacitated him for duty for two or three weeks, but he had been on the job daily since and there was no indication that he was ill until he was stricken suddenly in the police station, following the arrest.

"Sam", as he was generally known, was a good official and was popular with all ages. Conscientious in the performance of his duty, he filled the position admirably and became something of a character with it all—a man whom everybody respected and one who will be missed by the summer people fully as much as by the residents.

From his station at the head of steamboat dock, he each "season" passed a word of greeting to the new arrivals, many of whom would delight in hailing him first and receiving his hearty response of "Hello!" or "Glad to see you back again!"

"Sam" Burgess showed no favorites in the performance of his duty and he took pride in his job. As regular as the clock, his first work



THE LATE SAMUEL T. BURGESS

when coming on duty in the morning was to take in the lanterns from the silent policemen. That over with, he would trudge up to the foot of Gay street, to take care of the little children as they wended their way to school, ever solicitous for the safety of the little ones—and they all liked him, too.

May 15, 1926

New Fire Station Turned Over to Town.

The new central fire station on South Water street was formally turned over to the town by the special committee, last Saturday afternoon. William Holland, chairman, was in charge of the affair, assisted by the other members of the committee—John H. Robinson and Ernest R. Terry—who were appointed to carry out the vote of the town and take charge of the construction of the new station.

The building was accepted by the Chief of the Fire Department and a nice new American flag (presented by Arthur Williams) was hoisted to the top of the staff which stands at the southeast corner of the lot.

The new central fire station is a well-constructed building standing on the Hosier lot facing South Water street, which is a portion of the real estate left to the town by will of the late William Hosier, with the request that it be used for the erection of some suitable town building.

The architects are Little & Russell, of Boston, and J. M. Hartwell was the contractor.

The town made an appropriation of \$20,000 at the annual meeting in 1928, towards the construction of the new fire station, also passing a vote that the proceeds of the sale of the two engine houses on Centre street be added to the \$20,000.

The land and building known as the Central Fire Station on the corner of Centre and Quince streets was bought by Augustus L. B. Fisher for \$12,000, and the other fire-house on Centre street, near the corner of Main street, was bought by Miss Cora Stevens, for \$4,400. This added \$16,400 to the \$20,000 appropriated, making a total of \$36,400 available for the new fire station. At the annual town meeting in 1929 an additional appropriation of \$6,950 was made to complete the station, so that the new building represents \$43,350, including architects' fees and other incidentals of construction.

It is a substantial looking brick structure, and on the lower floor are housed the three pieces of motor apparatus, the Stutz pumper purchased in 1923, the LaFrance pumper purchased in 1926 and the LaFrance pumper and ladder truck purchased in 1927. The three pieces represent expenditures of \$7,500, \$12,000 and \$12,000, respectively, or a total of \$32,000.

In addition there is the fire alarm equipment, originally installed in 1907 and improved and extended from time to time in the years that have passed. The whole makes an up-to-date fire-fighting equipment and one which few towns the size of Nantucket possess.

June 22, 1929

State, Nantucket Police Co-operate Closely on Island



—Bill Hadden Photo
PLANNING FOR SUMMER—Working in a spirit of complete co-operation, Nantucket Police Chief Wendell H. Howes, center, points out to State Trooper W. Stuart Fuller, left, and State Police Sergeant Robert G. Haley, right, where traffic jams can be expected this Summer.

May 19, 1955



SHORTLY BEFORE 9:00 a.m. preparations to pull the Chevrolet Police cruiser from the hole were begun. Albert Silva and George Hamblin inspect the damage, as Chief of Police Howes and Sewer Commissioner Marland Rounsville look on.

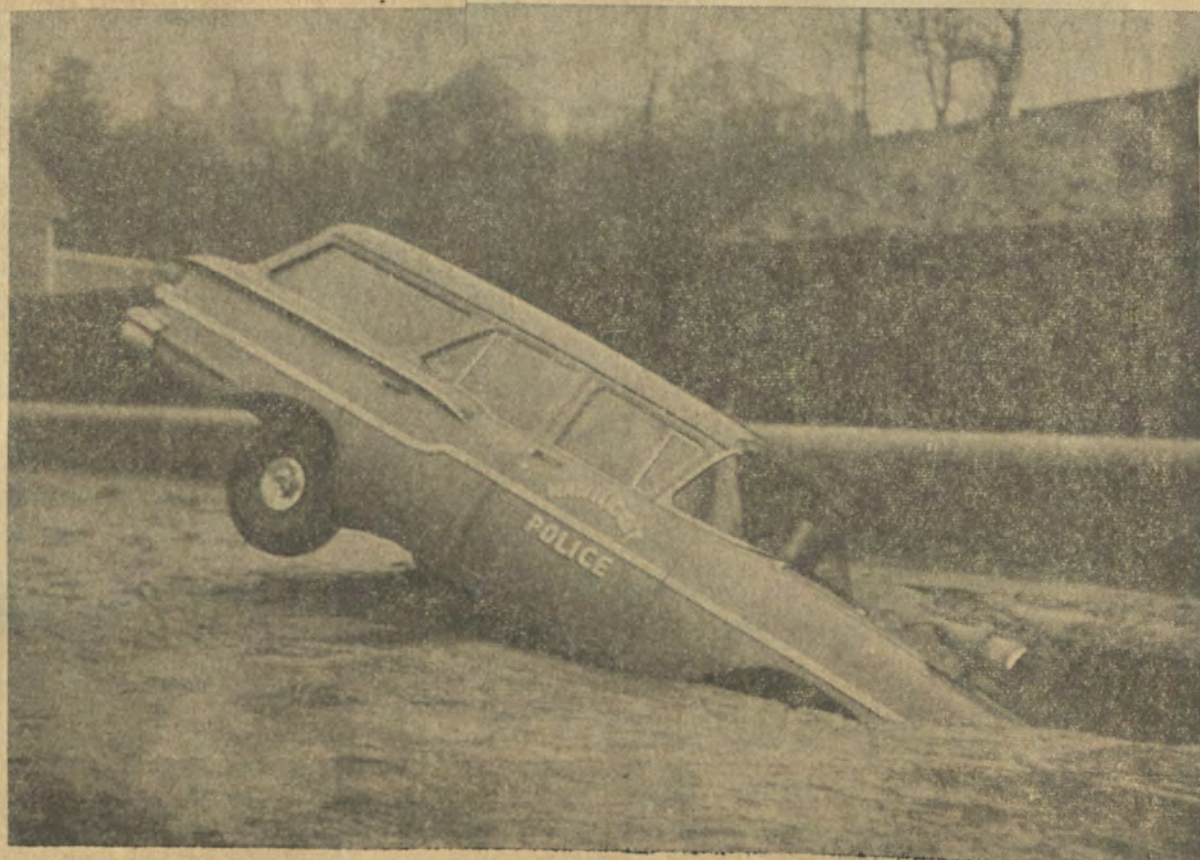


THE SIZE AND LOCATION of the hole in Union Street may be seen from the above photo.



NANTUCKET POLICE Chief Wendell H. Howes is shown with a new 4-wheel drive Jeep station wagon acquired by the department for travel over the sandy beaches to the scene of water accidents or drownings. The new police vehicle is equipped with stretchers, a resuscitator and other emergency first aid materials.

June 13, 1955



AS THE SEWER MAIN under Union Street is forced under pressure, a break in the pipe often results in the sand being washed out from underneath the road until only the pavement is left, supported by its own weight. This was the case Monday morning, no hole being visible until the Police cruiser broke through.



—Associated Press Wirephoto
NANTUCKET'S "MIGHTY MITE"—George Rezendes, left, talks with Charles Chadwick, a retired constable, after Nantucket voters approved appointment of Rezendes as a full-fledged member of the Nantucket Police Department, making him the shortest policeman in the Commonwealth. (Another story on Page 10.)

March 8, 1961

Sergeant Chadwick Feted By Nantucket Police Unit

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Sept. 18—Police Sergeant F. Stuart Chadwick was feted by his fellow officers on completion of his 30 years service with the Nantucket Police Department. The occasion was celebrated with a supper-dance at Maddequet Admiralty Club with 10 officers, headed by Police Chief Wendell H. Howes, and their wives in attendance.

Chief Howes presented Sergeant Chadwick with a gold wristwatch suitably inscribed, "For 30 years of meritorious service." The watch was a gift from all the members of the force.

Although Sergeant Chadwick knew of the party and was invited to it with Mrs. Chadwick he had no idea that it was being held in his honor. After the group had enjoyed a lobster and steak dinner, Chief Howes made the presentation and dancing followed.

Sergeant Chadwick joined the force in 1930 as a patrolman and was raised to his sergeant's rank in 1935. He served under four police chiefs, the late Arthur Callwitz, the late Houghton Gibbs, the late Lawrence F. Mooney and under Chief Howes.

He is married to the former Hazel (Main) Barrett and the couple reside on Derrymore Road. Mr. Chadwick also maintains a farm in the Polpis section of town.

In addition to Chief and Mrs. Howes and Sergeant and Mrs. Chadwick present were Mr. and Mrs. Wesley E. Simmons, Mr. and



F. STUART CHADWICK

Mrs. Herbert L. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Fernald, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Burdick Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Hermon E. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Rezendes and Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Furlong.

Sept. 18, 1961

NANTUCKET, May 23—Police Sergeant F. Stuart Chadwick, a veteran of 31 years of service in the Nantucket Police Department, has submitted his resignation, with a request for retirement, to Police Chief Wendell H. Howes.

The request of Sergeant Chadwick to leave the department on June 30 is expected to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen, who serve as police commissioners, tonight. Requests for retirement by veteran town employees is usually handled as a routine matter and quickly approved.

Sergeant Chadwick was regarded as a policeman who "never gave a prisoner a bad deal." To younger men in the department he always stressed honesty on the witness stand is the first requisite in earning the confidence of the public in a policeman and a Police Department.

Praise for Island Youths

Interviewed after submitting his resignation Sergeant Chadwick disclosed that as a veteran policeman leaving the service he has faith in the youths of the island.

"The most important fact I would like to stress is that in all honesty I can say the youths of this island give the police far less trouble today than they did when I first entered the department."

"Excepting for a motor vehicle violation on widely separated occasions, the police in this town have no trouble with the teenagers. I doubt that there is a town anywhere on the mainland that could match the records of good behavior that is followed by the young people of Nantucket."

"Sometimes I don't think the people of the island really appreciate how well our teen-agers behave. If they would compare the records of the youngsters here and with those on the mainland they would have no reason to find fault."

Asked why he had decided to leave the department Sergeant Chadwick said, "I have been here 31 years. It is a young man's business. I just decided I was getting too old to have to get into an occasional wrestle. I also decided I would go out while I still feel I have a lot of friends."

Tells of Progress

Sergeant Chadwick, disclosing himself as a police officer who has always been in favor of progress in crime investigation, cited the introduction of medical science, chemistry, the radio communication system and the patrol car as major assets that have been provided for Police Departments, not only in the big cities but the small communities.

"Things have changed a lot since I came into the department 31 years ago. In those days you were given a gun and a club, put in a uniform and told where your beat was and you just went out and kept walking the route."

"With all the advances that have come along in recent years the police officer needs the education that is now being provided at the State Police School in Framingham. Even after completing his first training he must take repeated refresher courses and out of school he must keep up with the laws by reading the general laws."



STUART CHADWICK

"Education for a police officer today is just as important as education for teachers, nurses, lawyers and doctors. Police work today has become a profession because of the advances in the technological and scientific fields in the investigation and the solution of crimes."

No Murder in 31 Years

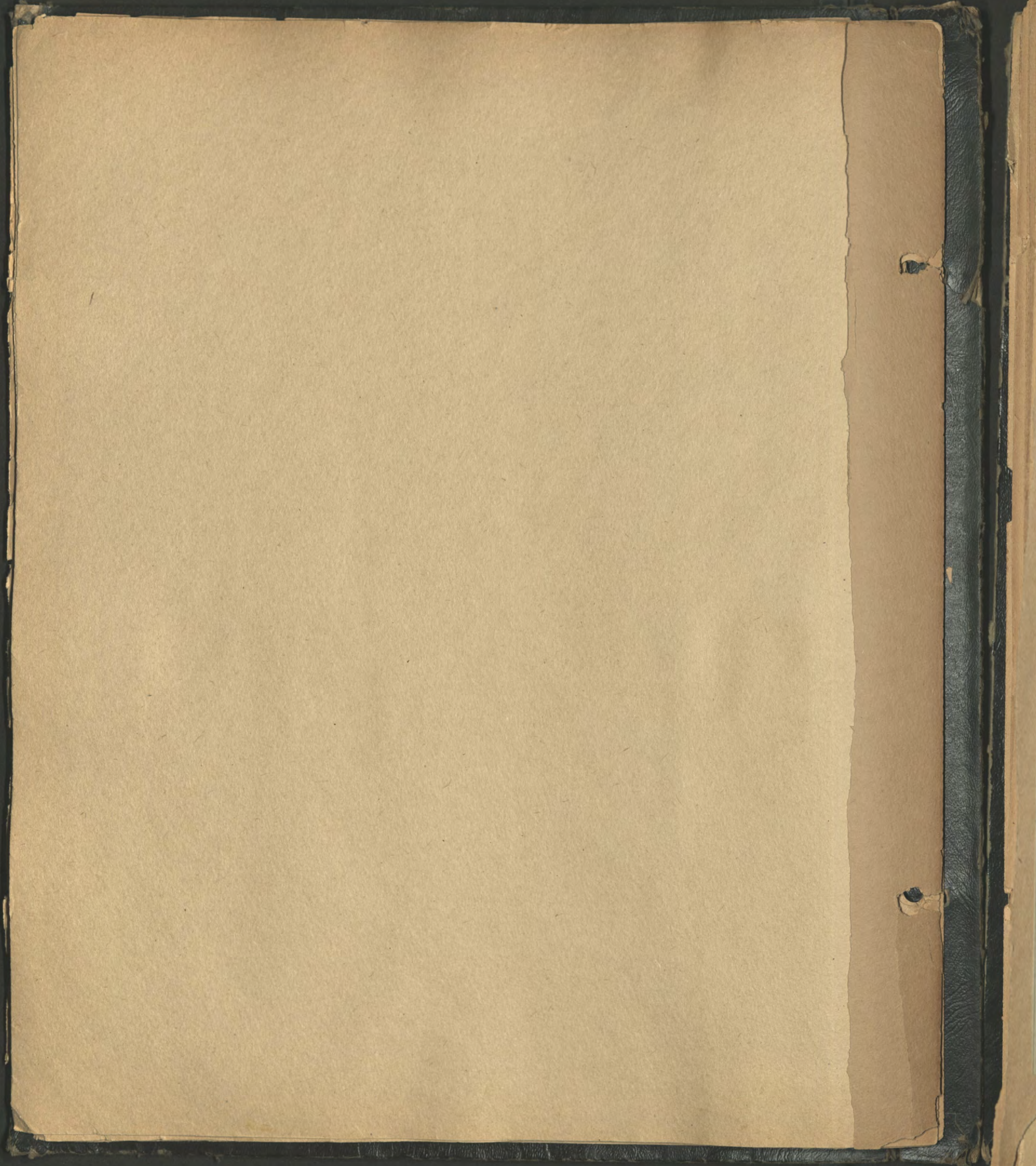
Thinking back over his long career Sergeant Chadwick with a tone of pride in his voice said: "It is nice to say that this island has not had a single murder during my 31 years in the department. The one real bad crime I can recall was the gangland style ride and vicious beating inflicted on one of our citizens."

"The ride victim was taken to a cemetery, tied up and given a vicious beating by a gang of three men. These criminals were given long sentences in the State Prison."

The worst tragedies on the island during his career and on which he worked long hours were the crash of the Northeast Airlines Convair plane on the night of Aug. 15, 1958, that took 29 lives and the swamping of the cruiser yacht Constance in September 1949, with a loss of eight lives.

Sergeant Chadwick said that after retiring he plans to divide his time between the island and Florida. "Mrs. Chadwick and I are going to see what it is like to follow the sun. We will be here in the Summer and in Florida in the Winter. I'm going out while I have good health and I am going to hope my wife and I can keep healthy for many more years."

1962



The Great Fire Which Swept Nantucket in 1846.

By FRED ELIJAH COFFIN.

The story of the fire of 1846 has been told and re-told; its incidents are well known. Some lessons of experience drawn from it and some personal memoranda are all that can now be interesting. One positive lesson which the disaster taught is, that on many an occasion of crucial importance in human affairs the man who is willing to humble himself and assume a secondary position for the sake of greater immediate efficiency is the wise man who saves the city; while if a man in his conceit regards himself as all-important, there is no surer way of belittling himself and hastening disaster.

The fire of 1846 started, as ninety-nine in a hundred do, in a small meek way whose single tongue of flame could be shied and squelched as easily as a single wolf; but if the wolf becomes a pack of wolves, and the tiny bright streamlet a glaring volume of many-fanged flames, only vigorous work can conquer them; and sometimes they themselves conquer. It should never be forgotten that fire is a good servant, but a bad master.

When, on that quiet July evening sixty-eight years ago the fierce alarm rang out, there were men and engines enough quickly assembled to protect the town. It was a dry time, and to obtain an adequate volume of water it was imperative that one or two engines should play into and supply one stationed very near the fire; but to simply play into another engine was inglorious work, so at least thought one of the captains, and there was debate and higgling. Time and tide surely wait for no man, nor does insidious fire, when it gets a chance; and the dry, tindery buildings fell before the hot breath of the flames as do moths at the lamp wicks, and tumbled down to destruction as surely, and almost as quickly as the sea-bird who dashes himself against the brilliant glasses of the lighthouse and falls wrecked at the bottom of the tower.

After the fire became well started and was forcing its way in three or four directions, it seemed as though it might at any time start directly up Main street, and if so our house would go. At that time my father came to me—and I never before saw him so seriously in earnest—and said: "Fred, will you stand by me to-night?" I said: "Yes, I will!" And the old gentleman knew he could depend upon me. We had no horse and it would have been impossible to find one that night, so my father obtained a large porter's push-cart and with that we transferred many loads of household goods to the premises of an uncle in the upper part of the town; but before the early daybreak it was evident that the fire was under control.



Looking up Main street before the fire of 1846. The Pacific Bank and Methodist Church buildings, which are visible in the picture, were not destroyed by the fire. Photo loaned by Nantucket Historical Association.

One of the peculiar incidents of that wild night was the rare sight of the harbor on fire. Many barrels of whale oil on the wharves had burst, and their contents flowed out over the water of the harbor and there, taking fire, presented the grand spectacle of a sea of fire. I do not give this at first hand, for I saw nothing of it—that night was my busy night. The next day, and many a time afterwards, when the boys would mention the grand sight, I would try by sympathy and imagination, to enjoy the recital, but under the circumstances I never regretted not seeing it.

The people all lived in wooden houses. What if on that night there had been no revenue cutter handily present in the harbor with powder, and men who knew how to use it in levelling buildings in the flames' pathway and breaking the connection? Nor with prompt assistance from any nearby town?

So, habits of carefulness were literally burned into the minds of all the people. A cautionary effect was the establishing of more and stronger engine companies. This was before the days of the steam fire-engine, the chemical extinguisher and the water tower. To make the new movement popular there were parades of the companies, appropriately uniformed, and occasionally the torchlight parade led by a small but vigorous fife-and-drum corps. No presumptuous spark of fire dared to manifest itself in an unruly manner with so many of the fire-lads around, so although there was plenty of fire in those parades, there was no danger.

Stephen Hussey was the fifer—he was great! You remember Steve? No! Then you must be of the younger set. Steve was a character; tall and straight, with his broken leg turned backward from the knee and supported by a wooden stump, after the manner of the surgery of those days—but he could get along on that stump about as nimbly as any one. Few were the parades in which he did not take part, and it was his delight to furnish music for the step. And there is a satisfaction in declaring that he was no roisterer. Steve was good; he was good in more senses than one; firstly he was a good fisherman—it was something to say there was no smarter man aboard the smack; and then Steve was a good fireman, a good fifer, and a good fellow—and all in spite of his broken leg and wooden stump.

And the small boy of those years, what of him? Oh, he had his company and engine—a large soap-box on wheels—and he was lively about town "after school," as many a pestered pedestrian could have testified. We had a unique captain of our company. In our lively runs to "the fire" it was inevitable that the running gear or some other gear would get out of order. Our captain had a fertile brain and his words were sometimes too full for utterance—especially when he stuttered most. One of his first commands when we had a break-down was (before attending to repairs): "Now, all get round and give three cheers for that!" So the rule was established, after a smash—and they occurred frequently—the very first thing to do was

for all to get round and give three cheers for that, and then go to work and make repairs. How often in later life has the genuine wisdom of that boy's order been apparent! Many a time when things have broken or seemed to be broken, has courage been fortified and hope emboldened by the thought—"First, give three cheers for that!"—and then see what can be done for betterment. Allen, the captain's, life, intensely active from boyhood, is now closed; but three at least of that "company" are still active.

In a good-sized town whenever there is any occurrence of a spectacular nature there will always be a knot of young fellows so entranced with the glamour of what is going on as to forget and ignore all claims of business or social nature and give themselves up wholly to the attractions and enjoyment of the present novelty. These are the thoughtless ones, and the least reliable under any circumstances.

During the height of the fire and excitement, possibly an hour after midnight, a small group of this class were gathered on the extreme outer end of the Old North wharf, so engaged in discussing in their solon-like wisdom the various features of the conflagration as to be utterly unmindful of their own danger and the great loss which might occur to the world through them—for the fire in the meanwhile had swept across the head of the wharf, rendering retreat by land impossible, so that they were practically in a position "between the devil and the deep sea"—not very deep just there, but deep enough to drown a man. However, a boatman discovered and rescued them.

It certainly seems, in the Providence of God, as though there was rarely a calamity without some attendant blessing. After the fire, when there was time for calm expressions of opinion and correct judgment, the statement was made by some wise visitors that the fire was really a good thing for the town. Quite a large section of the burned district along the harbor front was thickly packed with sailors' boarding-houses and a great deal of riff-raff. If the word had been in the dictionary of those days that section would have been known as the "slum" of the town. It was stated by these investigators that there was danger of some sort of epidemic breaking out there. On rebuilding, everything about there was widened; and from the time the flames visited it, was aired out. On the whole, considering the crowded and unsanitary conditions, and the menace of the popular Washington Hall fire-trap, the "Great Fire" may be regarded as a blessing rather than a calamity.

For many months after there remained a definite burnt odor which became so impressed upon the memory that at rare intervals since, after some burning which has caused a similar smell, instantly the ruins of the 1846 conflagration are recalled quicker than by wireless suggestion, and the incidents of that night (minus the harbor blaze) are all brought back to realization.

evening, for street were familiar as comfortable especially for store-keepers and wayfarers among sailors, and a clear body part—it was a great, that

and occurred Pacific new light of nothing so many such as if was—to

of stores he lighted people stood in street, occupied as made "Well, begins weath- with peo- pleasant street, ant dis- bars to ty are were

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Only one life was lost as a direct result of the fire. During the first few weeks after, a boy fell, a victim of accident, among the ruins.

Washington Hall, one of the principal buildings destroyed at this time, as it abides now in memory, was a somewhat imposing building on the south side of the lower square. Two stores occupied the ground floor, and between these a tolerably broad stairway led to the hall. My impression, having almost the value of certainty, is that this stairway furnished the only access to and exit from the hall. My only special recollection of the hall is in connection with an entertainment given there one evening two or three years before the fire, which was attended by three or four members of our family—myself, a small boy, being of the number. The entertainment, "The Burning of Moscow," depicted the historic event in an unusually realistic and spectacular manner. The hall was packed to its utmost limits. We had seats toward the front. The rich tones of the Kremlin bell; the deep red fire, with all the appropriate military and histrionic setting, was to me and to all marvellously interesting. But my father was exceedingly anxious, and as uncomfortable as if sitting on thorns. He, like all whalemens, had visited the coast of Chili and its Roman Catholic cities, and he knew of more than one instance where, on high occasions their flimsily decorated churches had taken fire with awful result; and on this occasion the flames on the stage seemed to him recklessly bright and dangerous, and the conditions of the building and crowd such as to accentuate it.

A hall is safe when it can be emptied quickly under emergency conditions. Such was not the case with Washington Hall. A writer in a July, 1913, number of "the Scientific American," discussing the safety of large halls and schoolrooms, says: "The capacity of a stairway, if time is not a factor, and a stream of people pours into it only at the top and out from it at the bottom, is unlimited; but if time is to be considered, the capacity is limited by its cross-sectional area." "A crowd of people does not flow like a liquid composed of round smooth molecules. Their soft bodies are angular in shape, more like pieces of rubber with wires in them, and they therefore interlock." Washington Hall, however, was not destined to witness to the danger of unsafe conditions, for it fell before there was occasion for any such proof.

[Note: Mr. Coffin's next article will be in relation to the old Nantucket "sheep shearings."—Ed.]

Copy of the Appeal Sent Broadcast by the Selectmen of Nantucket After the Great Fire of July 13, 1846.

Friends:—The undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket, have been constituted, by a vote of the town, a committee to ask at your hands such aid as you may feel able to render to our unfortunate and distressed people.

One-third of our town is in ashes. A fire broke out on Monday evening last, a few minutes before eleven o'clock, and raged almost uncontrolled, for about nine hours. The whole business section of the town is consumed. There is scarcely a Dry Goods, a Grocery, or Provision store left standing, and what more particularly threatens immediate distress, the stocks contained in them, so rapidly did the conflagration extend, are almost utterly destroyed. There is not food enough in town to keep wide-spread suffering from hunger at bay a single week. Seven-eighths of our mechanics are without shops, stock, or tools:—they have lost all, even the means of earning bread. Hundreds of families are without a roof to cover them, a bed to lie upon, and many of them even without a change of raiment. Widows and old men have been stripped of their all; they have no hopes for the future, except such as are founded upon the humanity of others.

We are in deep trouble. We cannot of ourselves relieve the whole distress, and we are compelled to call upon those who have not been visited like ourselves, for aid, in this our hour of necessity. We do not ask you to make up our loss, to replace the property which the conflagration has destroyed, but to aid us, so far as you feel called upon by duty and humanity, in keeping direct physical suffering from among us, until we can look round and see what is to be done. We need help—liberal and immediate. If we seem to you importunate, we can only say that could you look upon the yet smoking ruins of one-third of our town—could you walk through our remaining streets filled with houseless hundreds wandering about seeking for some roof to shelter them, or for such remnants of their household goods as may have been snatched by others from the flames,—could you feel, as we do, that not many days can pass before positive want will be knocking at our doors,—our words would appear feeble, our appeal certainly not more earnest than the occasion requires. But we are confident that you will feel for us and with us,—and that you will render us such assistance as is in your power.

Will you take immediate measures to bring our suffering condition before your people, either by calling a public meeting, or in such other manner as may seem to you best? Provisions, Clothing, Bedding, Money,—anything useful which you may have to bestow, will be most gratefully received. Will you move in the matter immediately?

Please to direct anything which you may send, to the Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket, and we pledge ourselves to dispense whatever you may bestow, faithfully, and to the best of our ability, judiciously.

Job Coleman,
Chas. G. Coffin,
Eben W. Allen,
Wm. Barney, Jr.,
Nath. Rand,
Obed Swain,
Alfred Folger,
Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket.

Building in 1846 Fire Area Untouched, Carpenter Says

Beams dowed with oak pins, sills and floor boards mortised and tenoned—features of old Nantucket construction—have been found by workmen who are remodeling Maud Haddon's dress shop on Main Street.

Between the old walls of the shop were layers of yellowed newspapers—apparently used in the old days as a form of insulation. Some of the newspapers dated back to 1824. In the attic of the building were some old shoes, the tapped leather soles of which had been fastened with oak pegs—a practice which is now extant. One of them had a tag price of \$3.37.

Ernest Lema, Sr. who is in charge of the remodeling, believed that the old building was

untouched by the great fire of 1846 which enveloped the area in which it stands. He said there was no evidence in the building to indicate that it had burned in any part, but was mystified as to why it should have escaped.

Before Mrs. Haddon established a dress shop in the building, the store had been occupied by William Kaplan for the sale of men's wearing apparel.

Residents recall that, at one time, the building was used as a cobbler and shoe shop. One of its occupants was Charles Lovell who cobbled and made shoes by hand from models of customers' feet. His son, however, imported manufactured shoes from the mainland when he took over the business.

The Lovells finally sold their business to Charles Collins.

Feb. 13, 1948

EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF NANTUCKET'S "GREAT FIRE"

1846 ----- 1931

THE worst catastrophe ever occurring on Nantucket was what has always been called the "great fire", in which one-third of the business section of the town was swept away by the flames on July 13, 1846—eighty-five years ago next Monday. Even the rising generation today hears an occasional reference made to the "great fire", but mostly in connection with Nantucket history, for there are comparatively few living today who can recall the terrible event of 1846 from memory's pages.

The fire started about 11 o'clock on Monday evening, the 13th of July. It originated in the hat store of William M. Geary (approximately the site occupied by the Nantucket Fruit Store) and, spreading up and down, burned all the buildings on the south side of Main street, between Orange street and the Straight and South wharves. Crossing Main street it spread in all directions, consuming everything east of Centre street between Main and Broad streets, also the buildings on the west side of Centre street between the houses of Mrs. Upham (now site of H. Marshall Gardiner's building) and Quince street, but fortunately sparing the Methodist church building. Crossing Broad street it burned the fine Episcopal church, and all buildings on the north side between that and the harbor, and also the buildings on the east side of North Water street, as far north as the residence of William E. Burchell, and several houses on the west side. Between three and four hundred buildings were burned and property to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000 destroyed. Had the efforts to save the Methodist Church proved unavailing, the probability is that the whole northwest section of the town would have been burned.

The extent of the devastated section is shown on the map printed herewith, which was made a few days after the fire occurred. It has always been claimed by many that but for the obstinacy of the Cataract Engine Company (which was a private company owning the engine which is now preserved in the rooms of the Historical Association) the flames would never have gone beyond the Geary store.

The officials failing to exercise authority and the loss of time occasioned in getting the No. 8 to another cistern and in working order, gave the flames a chance to spread and soon the fire was beyond control and sweeping northward.

From the Daily Warrier of 1846 we copy the following article, which is an excellent description of the "great fire", written by an observer.

The disaster occurred between the hours of 11 p. m. on Monday and 6 a. m. on Tuesday last. Upwards of three hundred buildings, including many public edifices, and the most valuable stores and warehouses, with numerous costly private dwellings, were in that incredibly short space of time reduced to ashes. A prodigious amount of merchandise, furniture and other personal property was also consumed; for such was the furious velocity which signalized the course of this extraordinary conflagration that but very little could be saved from its devouring grasp.

Articles were removed from place to place repeatedly and at length burnt in their supposed places of refuge, at points very remote from the spots whence they were first taken. So intense was the heat that the widest streets became impassable. People could only operate upon the outer boundaries, and the vast area comprising the burnt district at one period seemed like an interminable sea of fire.

No forms of language can convey an accurate idea of the horrors of that memorable night. No rain had fallen for a long time, and the houses which were chiefly of wood, had become by the agency of many long days of unbroken sunshine, amply ripened for their destiny. The flames flew from house to house, crossing streets, lanes and courts.

Explosions of gunpowder and torrents of water seemed alike unavailing, though directed by the stoutest arms and the most desperate and determined spirits. All night long were these doomed people thus exercised, harassed and foiled. Human strength and skill were at length exhausted, and the fire having engorged everything within its reach, subsided only for lack of other accessible materials. Men fell powerless in highways, utterly worn out and disheartened. Fire engines wrought in the most dangerous positions up to the last moment, were yielded to the flames which poured in upon them from opposite quarters.

The phenomenon which was witnessed here at the great fire of 1838, was again observable. Vast quantities of oil stored in sheds and oil yards, becoming heated in the casks, burst forth upon the ground, became at once ignited and rolled in fiery floods upon the harbor below Beach street, covering the surface of the water to a great distance with sheets of living flame.

But so appalling was the scene—so intensely engaged and excited were the populace of all ages and sexes—that no moments could be spared for contemplating the particular terrors of this dreadful conflagration. And even now the inhabitants generally are scarcely willing to credit their senses. The whole is like a painful, paralyzing dream.

Besides the destruction of the business section of the town, the number of families who lost their homes was considerably over two hundred. These families averaged not far from five members each, so that more than one thousand persons were rendered homeless by the fire in the space of a

few hours. So rapidly was the progress of the flames that most of these families lost more than half of their household goods, and a majority of them well-nigh the whole.

It is said that more than thirty widows resided in the burnt district, most of them poor and not a few of them with children depending upon their earnings for bread.

The amount of aid sent the stricken inhabitants from the mainland was large, contributions of money, clothing and provisions being sent at once from near-by towns. The city of Fall River loaded the steamer Bradford Durfee and sent her down to Nantucket as a relief ship a few days after the fire, and thousands of dollars were subscribed in Boston and other cities for relief of the Nantucketers.

A survey of the burnt district was made soon after the fire and it was found to cover thirty-six acres. It was by far the most compact section of the town, and as the streets running through it were narrow the greater part of the land was covered with buildings.

As soon as possible after the islanders began to recover from the shock they commenced rebuilding and temporary structures were put up on the south side of Main street in which to do business, with the intention of more substantial buildings later. But this side of the street was never re-built as planned, between Orange and Union streets, and the temporary, make-shift buildings erected soon after 1846 were not taken down until 1926.

On the north side of the street, however, brick buildings were erected and they were substantial structures.

In re-locating the street lines after the fire, Main street was widened considerably, the north line being set back a number of feet, thus forming what is now known as "the square," with the Pacific Bank building facing it on the west and the Pacific Club building on the east.

Soon after the fire, the town appointed a committee to make a thorough investigation into the disaster. The committee comprised William C. Starbuck, William R. Easton and Job Coleman, who made a careful and thorough study of the situation and made their report to the town on the 8th of February, 1847. This document—the original report of the committee in excellent condition—was among the papers which were carted to the dump when the attic in the town office building was cleaned out a few months ago. Fortunately, Huntley Taylor secured it before it was burned with other documents that were closely connected

with the history of Nantucket, and we have made a copy of the committee's report for presentation to our readers on this 85th anniversary of Nantucket's "great fire":

The committee appointed by the inhabitants of Nantucket at a Town Meeting held on the 21st of July last to investigate and report upon the facts connected with the great fire of the 13th of the same month, having reported to the town, the result of their inquiries, at a meeting held on the 14th of August, and having had the report recommitted to them to report at the next Annual Meeting, with such alterations as the committee might deem it expedient to make, hereby report that they have attended to the duty assigned to them, and present for consideration the following statements and suggestions.

The origin of that terrible calamity is traceable, as nearly as your committee can ascertain by diligent inquiry, to a defective stove-pipe, leading from the hat store of William H. Geary into a small chimney resting on the second floor, and placed in the plastered partition between said store and that of E. & J. Kelley. This pipe proceeded from a cylinder stove on the lower floor, passed through a stone in the ceiling overhead, to an elbow nine inches above the second floor, and thence horizontally 15 or 18 inches into an orifice near the foot of the chimney. That portion of the pipe which projected into the second story had been covered by a wooden box, inclosing it on three sides and at the top, the interior surfaces approaching within about 5 inches of the pipe. A small fire had been usually kept in the store for heating irons used in the pressing of hats. Such a fire, of anthracite coal, was kindled on the afternoon of the fatal day in question; but had subsided in the evening, prior to the departure of the occupant, a few minutes past 9 o'clock.

It is the conviction of your committee, that some particle of burning wood or paper had escaped from the covered portion of the pipe, either at its elbow junction, or through some hole caused by rust, or at its point of entrance into the chimney, and had fallen into some crevice upon the floor very near to the partition—that it slowly ignited the surrounding wood, extending into the central cavity of the wall; and that the wooden box which concealed for a time this germ of destruction, not only prevented it from an early discovery, but secured the certainty of its progress.

From this seemingly insignificant primary cause, your committee proceeded in their inquiries to follow the cause of the tremendous conflagration which ensued. The first symptom of the impending ruin was developed by the smoke which forced its way into the street from the premises about an hour after they were closed. A few individuals obtained ingress into the shop of Messrs. Kelley, and finding the wall beneath the base of the chimney to be much heated, threw against it several buckets of water; when that portion of the wall gave way, and disclosed to some extent the danger of the crisis: for the flames were then mounting rapidly into the upper stories of the building, whence,

through the rear windows, they ascended to the southeast corner of Washington Hall; and in an incredibly short space of time wrapt the entire range on that side of the street in one general sheet of fire. As the flames threatened to advance up Orange Street, it was deemed expedient, in order to stay their progress, to demolish the homestead of Dr. Ruggles.

At the eastern end of the range, bordering on Union street, it was fondly hoped that the work of destruction would terminate. But, by some mysterious agency, the hay-loft of the stable on Washington street occupied by Joseph Hambin, one block beyond the then burning buildings, was set on fire; and from this point the flames diverged in every direction, raging with ungovernable violence

until they had overspread and consumed or destroyed every accessible object eastward to the water's edge, and northward until checked by, though embracing the brick mansion of Aaron Mitchell. They extended also in a southerly direction to the head of Commercial wharf. At the same time the frightful element traversed every avenue from Main to Broad streets inclusive; stretching westward, and involving also most of the buildings in Centre street—the whole comprising an area of between thirty and forty acres. So rapid and so complete was the combustion—all accomplished within seven or eight hours—converting as it were in a moment, some five hundred buildings into mere dust and ashes—that many persons who even dwelt remote from its starting point, were unable to rescue their movable effects. That noble structure, the Athenaeum, with all its valuable contents, was annihilated by the common destroyer; and the final victim was that beautiful and costly edifice, Trinity Church, which fell a sacrifice to the almost wearied flames, at a moment when human strength also seemed exhausted, and prostrate or paralyzed.

This, your committee is aware, is but a general and cursory view of the career and extent of the fiery whirlwind by which we were visited on that calamitous night. Nor could a more specific description be deemed necessary by the thousands of our townspeople who beheld that awful scene, and whose vivid impression of its horror must far surpass all attempts at verbal delineation, however graphic or polished. It remains then, only to make the best possible use of this most dreadful lesson. Let us consider the means, and seriously ponder the course of conduct, whereby the recurrence of a similar affliction may be prevented or averted.

In contemplating the efforts which were put forth on this occasion to beat down the relentless enemy, your committee find some rare examples of devotion, worthy of all praise, amidst a host of instances, that deserve the deepest reprobation. Some of the engine companies maintained their posts manfully; others shrank away disgracefully from the field of action. In two instances the engines were utterly deserted, and were suffered to be consumed in the streets. Most of the Firewards exerted themselves according to their best knowledge and experience—qualities which, it is painful to say, as applicable to the management of wide-spreading fires, were deplorably wanting. Many of the citizens, at large, evinced the most disinterested heroism in this terrific emergency; but multitudes abandoned or neglected their duty and either stood aloof, gazing with indifference or curiosity upon the sweeping scourge; or occupied themselves ingloriously at a safe distance, in the selfish employment of removing goods and chattels that might be endangered. Numbers were evidently overcome with fear, dismayed, appalled, and absolutely struck powerless: others seemed actu-

ated by the desperate and dastardly sentiment ascribed to the French Emperor in his retreat from Moscow—"Save himself who can!" The very women in some sections of the blazing arena rendered more efficient service than could be obtained from the usually stronger sex. These facts reflect a measure of dishonor upon us, such as has never before been either merited or hazarded. And at this stage of our retrospect, let us pause to bestow a sentence of unmitigated censure upon those individuals, who, possessed of wealth and influence, pressed into their private service large bodies of dependent laboring men—in effect, hiring them to surrender the residue of the town to its fate—who, otherwise without reward or bribery, would have wrought successfully against the desolating element, and materially circumscribed the sphere of its action.

It appears to your Committee that those persons who are attached to the various branches of the Fire Department do not, altogether, entertain correct perceptions of their respective obligations and responsibilities. The idea that they may leave their stations with impunity at any moment, and without caring to provide a suitable substitute, is in the highest degree unjustifiable. No besieged soldier can be held to more strict discipline—no galley-slave to more implicit obedience—than should the engine-man at a fire; nor should the power of a Fireward, for the time being be considered inferior to that of an Eastern despot. A feeling of patriotism in those who enlist in the one capacity, and a proper amount of intelligence, discretion, and firmness in those who are placed in the other, will always insure efficiency in the administration of their several trusts. Without these, confusion, disorder, and the most lamentable blundering must prevail.

In the management of fires in populous neighborhoods, system is the most essential agent. Without minds to direct—minds fortified by the right sort of properties—the might of human arms will avail nothing. A Fireward should be imbued both with knowledge of his duties and rights, and with resolution to perform and enforce them. And every member of an engine company should recollect that he must retain his post at all hazards, even though conscious that his own property were in flames—that if called therefrom even to save life, he should first see that his place be supplied—feeling assured that for every sacrifice he might incur

in the discharge of duty, a discerning and just public will eventually make ample remuneration.

As resulting from the examinations by your Committee, and from their free and frequent discussions of subjects connected therewith, the subjoined suggestions or recommendations are now submitted. It is proposed:

That a separate department be organized, to consist of nine competent persons, whose especial duty it shall be to take charge of all gunpowder, slowmatches, etc., belonging to the town; and that its members shall choose their own officers, at such times and in such manner as they may determine. It shall be their duty when so ordered by the Chief Director to execute the blowing up of buildings for the purpose of suppressing or retarding the progress of the fires. Every member of this department shall be provided with a key to the powder house. And the said Department shall be furnished at the expense of the Town with a suitable fire-proof vehicle for the transportation of powder.

In conclusion, your Committee would respectfully but earnestly call the attention of the Town, to the condition of what is called Gunter's Alley, and to the instant and urgent necessity of converting that avenue,

cost what it may, into a thoroughfare, properly graded, and broad enough to allow the passage of engines, etc., between Union and Orange streets. Although these two streets, situated two or three hundred feet apart, run nearly parallel with each other for upwards of half a mile, there is not one channel of communication between them, affording room for an engine, along the whole line from Main Street, south, for at least one quarter of a mile!

At the late fire an engine was filled from the reservoir at the head of Coffin street; and in order to reach the then scene of danger at the north end of Orange street, it had to be dragged southwardly through Union street, then up the wretched passage-

way called Flora street and then northwardly to its destination—a distance, according to the map, measuring nearly half a mile! The whole of this line is densely populated; all the buildings and dwelling houses are of wood, and are so nearly contiguous that fire would readily extend from each to its neighbor. The number of houses on these two streets, between the points above designated, is very great. By the measure here proposed, the facilities for subduing fires in that quarter would be vastly increased not only in immediate reference to more than 200 estates but to the entire southern section of the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. C. Starbuck.

Wm. R. Easton,

Wm. C. Starbuck,

Job Coleman.

For the Committee.

Nantucket, Feb. 8, 1847.

JULY 11, 1931

RELIC OF THE FIRE OF 1846.—Mr. Samuel C. Crawford, while at work last week making repairs on the building at the head of Old South Wharf, which was formerly the blacksmith shop of Josiah Coleman, found a small poster issued by the Selectmen of the town after the "great fire," pasted on one of the boards. It was still legible, though the insects had made serious inroads upon the sheet. The bill is well remembered by us, it being a specimen of our handiwork of those days. Mr. Crawford handed the board containing the sheet, in to us, and we publish a copy of the notice below:

Persons having suffered by the Fire and needing assistance will please hand to either of the Selectmen an account of their losses forthwith.

JOB COLEMAN,
CHARLES G. COFFIN,
WILLIAM BARNEY, JR.,
EDEN W. ALLEN,
ALFRED FOLGER,
NATHANIEL RAND,
OBED SWAIN,
July, 1846.

The relic can be seen in one of the windows of Mr. Charles S. Cathcart's store.

Dec. 4, 1875

For the Inquirer and Mirror.

JULY 13th, 1875.

MESSENGERS. EDITORS:—As this is the 29th anniversary of one of the saddest events in our town's history, perhaps a brief sketch of it may prove interesting to your readers, if you can give it room. On Monday night, the 13th of July, 1846, about quarter before eleven, a fire alarm sounded from the South Tower, the watchmen having seen a thick column of smoke rising from what was then known as Hussey's block, situated on the corner of Main and Union streets. The fire originated in that part of the building occupied by Mr. William H. Geary. In about twenty minutes after the alarm, the Engine companies were at work, and no one supposed that the devouring element would go any farther than the building where it was discovered. The flames burst through the roof, and, crossing Main street to the old store on the corner above your office, ran westward to the Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank.

The Washington Hall, west of Hussey's block, was now discovered to be in flames. The fire made rapid progress on the south side of Main street to Orange, crossing again to the north side above Federal street. In about three hours, from Main to lower Pearl street was one sea of flame. The west side of Centre street from the residence of the late Frederick Worth to the corner of Quince street was all consumed. At six o'clock on the morning of the 14th not a building was left standing from Main to Broad street east of Centre except the Ocean House. From Centre street east to the water's edge from the south end of North-water street as far as the brick mansion of the late Aaron Mitchell everything was destroyed. On North beach street oil factories, work-shops and a large quantity of stock was burned.

South of Main on Union street from the Town's building along Washington street as far as the Gosnold house, thence east to the head of the old south wharf, everything was swept away. It may seem strange to any one looking over a map of the town that so much should have been destroyed, but there had been no rain for six weeks. Our engine companies strained every nerve, and nothing but the most determined efforts on their part, saved the town from entire destruction.

About 360 buildings were destroyed, and the loss of property was about \$1,000,000. Of this \$320,000 were insured. Whole families were turned into the street homeless, in many instances destitute of all the necessities of life. Furniture of every description, from a parlor grand piano to the most common housekeeping articles lined the streets leading from the burnt district.

The amount of provisions on the island on the morning of the 14th of July was not sufficient to keep hunger at bay for a week. Had it been winter, the suffering would have been beyond description. As soon as the news reached the main land, provisions, money and clothing were sent in liberal quantities. From over one hundred cities and towns these proofs of sympathy came pouring in. There are many hearts now among us who remember with gratitude this timely aid. \$6,400 worth of provisions and clothing, and \$56,000 in money was received and faithfully distributed by our Selectmen, three of whom are now living. Their task was an arduous, and in many instances a heart-sickening one. They performed it to the best of their ability, and gave general satisfaction.

Such was the fire of '46, and it is to be hoped, that our town will never again suffer as it did on that memorable night.

SHERBURNE.

PLAN OF THE TOWN OF NANTUCKET SHOWING DISTRICT BURNED IN THE FIRE OF 1846.

1—Mr. Geary's Hat Store, where fire commenced. 2—Trinity Church. 3—Atheneum, Library and Museum. 4—Washington Hall, a large building. 5—Citizens' Bank; papers saved. 6—Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank. 7—Aaron Mitchell, Esq., brick house and the largest hot houses and garden on the island, every part of which was destroyed. 8—Dwelling House of George Myrick, Esq., which was not burned. 9—Brick Office, Custom House and Commercial Insurance Office, the walls of which stand perfect. 10—Pacific Bank, not injured. 11—Methodist Church, some injured. 12—Jared Coffin's brick building; saved without injury. 13—Unitarian Meeting House, saved. 14—North Meeting House, saved. 15—Gosnold House. 16—Sea St.



HATS! HATS! FALL STYLE FOR 1857.

The subscriber has just opened a large and splendid assortment of Mole-skin, Silk and Beaver Hats of the Fall Style, from the best Manufacturers in New York and Boston. Time for introducing Fall Style of Fashionable Hats, second Saturday in August. Those in want of a good Hat will please call at
W. H. GEARY'S.

1857

The Account of Their Stewardship.

In its recent "fire supplement" giving the history of the Nantucket Fire Department and the record of fires, The Inquirer and Mirror published a copy of the appeal sent out by the selectmen of Nantucket following the "Great Fire of 1846", in which assistance was solicited in bringing relief to the stricken inhabitants of the town. Only one copy of that "appeal" is known to be in existence, but a sequel is in the possession of Arthur H. Gardner in the shape of another time-worn circular letter sent out by the selectmen in the January following the "Great Fire", in which the selectmen gave an account of their stewardship in handling the money and articles sent for the relief of the Nantucketers. This second letter is fully as interesting as the first, and in order that both may be presented for the perusal of the present generation, after a lapse of nearly seventy years, Mr. Gardner has permitted us to make a copy of the latter, which is as follows:

FRIENDS:—The undersigned, Selectmen of the town of Nantucket, having finished their labors in the distribution of the bounty entrusted to them from abroad, for the relief of the sufferers by the calamitous fire of the 13th and 14th of July last, feel called upon to give an account of their stewardship.

Our first care was to send our appeals and circulars abroad, asking aid for the distressed part of our community; and from more than one hundred cities and towns we have received substantial evidence of their good feeling toward them. Your bounty has been large and well-timed—about sixty-four hundred Dollars worth of Provisions, Clothing, Furniture and Dry Goods, have been received, and fifty-six thousand four hundred ninety-eight 53-100 Dollars in money.

In distributing what has been intrusted to our care, we have kept constantly in view the wish of the donors—"RELIEF TO THE DISTRESSED."

We have not been able to adopt any fixed rate of per centage, but have varied it with circumstances, as but few cases were alike, and our aim was rather to relieve the distressed, than to give to those who had much left, however severe their loss might have been.

To the aged and infirm, to widows and other destitute females, and to orphans, we have handed out freely of your gifts, and in some few extreme cases, have nearly or quite made good their loss, when it has not exceeded five hundred dollars; than which a greater amount has in no individual case been awarded.

The recipients are more than four hundred and sixty persons, of whom three hundred and fifty are heads of families; so that the whole number actually assisted is upward of thirteen hundred and fifty persons. Of the first number, three hundred and fifty-six were very destitute, and a large proportion of them entirely so; these received in money forty-nine thousand, eight hundred and thirty-four dollars. Those to whom the remainder was given, had little or no available means. Among the first named class were eighty-six persons over sixty years old, and one hundred and fifty-six females, a large proportion of whom are widows.

The recipients have generally been well satisfied, and very grateful for your bounty bestowed upon them. Some few of the recipients, as we have since found, were not entitled to assistance; but while they have received it through false statements, they have also received our just rebuke.

In the distribution of your munificence, we have acted independently of the few in our community who attempted to control us. All has been done under our direction. If we have not done right, we alone are to blame. All is accounted for, and we believe we have dispensed it faithfully, and, according to the best of our ability, judiciously; and so conscious are we of integrity of purpose, that it will give us pleasure, at any time, to open our books to any of the donors, or to give them any other information they may desire.

Friends,—your generosity and sympathy for the distressed, entitle you to our sincere thanks, and we here, for the inhabitants of Nantucket, for the recipients of your bounty, and for ourselves personally, publicly and heartily tender you the same. When hundreds of families were without a roof to cover them or a bed to lie upon, and very many of them without a change of raiment,—when widows and old men had been stripped of their all, and had no hopes for the future, except as were founded on the humanity of others—it was then you so liberally and so promptly responded to the call of the distressed, bound up their broken hearts, and sent them on their way rejoicing;—and surely Heaven's choicest blessings will be your reward.

For our services we have charged nothing—we have received nothing; but having the approval of our own consciences, and believing the course which we have pursued in dispensing what you have so liberally furnished, will not fail to secure your approval, and that of the recipients generally, and having been the instruments in your hands, of making many destitute and desponding families comfortable and happy, by whom many a tear of gratitude has been shed, and from whom many a prayer of thankfulness has gone up to high Heaven—these more than compensate for all the care which has devolved upon us, in being the almoners of your bounty.

The whole number of buildings burned is upward of three hundred and sixty, and the whole amount of property destroyed about one million of dollars. There was insured about three hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and there has been received from abroad about seventy thousand dollars—leaving an actual loss of about six hundred thousand dollars.

Nantucket, January 22d, 1847.

JOB COLEMAN,
NATHANIEL RAND,
OBED SWAIN,
EBEN W. ALLEN,
WILLIAM BARNEY,
CHARLES G. COFFIN,
ALFRED FOLGER.

Sixty-seven Years Ago Tomorrow.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

I have so thoroughly enjoyed two letters that came from a friend in Edgartown about "The Great Fire" of '46 at Nantucket, that I am copying them for your paper. Our friend, in responding to a query, wrote:

"I certainly remember the fire in Nantucket, for I was so frightened that my mother held me in her arms. We went on the top of the house to see it. Father was very careless that night, for he went to bed and forgot to fasten the front door. In the night an old woman walked into his bedroom and woke him up, telling him her father's house was on fire. It was poor old Polly Way. Father said: 'Oh, you go home, Polly, your father's house is not on fire; go home and go to bed.' She went off, but it was only a few minutes before she was back again telling the same story, so Father told Mother he guessed he would get up and see what there was about it.

Sure enough, when he got down stairs, he said: 'I believe the old man's house is on fire,' so he took the boys and swam one of the horses across to Chappaquidic, and it was not at that house; then he thought it must be at Mr. Smith's place, so with the horse they started for Mr. Smith's. When he got there it was all dark and still, so Father woke him up and he said it must be his barn some distance off, that he used to put salt hay in. So they all started for that and when they got there it was all quiet—nothing there. So they walked their horses along a little way and found it must be Nantucket. They could see them blowing up the houses.

Father did not go to New Bedford for help, as you thought, as it would have been of no use, for it is sixty miles from Nantucket. It would have been easier to have taken people from here, as it is only thirty miles from here.

Last evening I was out spending the evening and I spoke about your asking me if I knew anything about the fire. 'Why,' Mrs. Dean said, 'I have a piece of an Edgartown newspaper telling about it and I will show it to you,' so I will copy it and send to you."

Soon after came to us the second letter, with what I now re-copy for your readers:

"We are indebted to the Rev. Hebron Vincent, of this town, for the following interesting account of the late disastrous conflagration in Nantucket:

Mr. Editor: Having just returned from the neighboring island of Nantucket, I hasten to give you some account of the most distressing scenes of conflagration ever witnessed by the inhabitants of that wealthy and enterprising, but ill-fated, town. The fire took in W. H. Geary's hat manufactory, on Main street, and was discovered at 11 o'clock on Monday night, 13th instant. The buildings on each side and in the rear of that in which the fire commenced, were so contiguous to it, and to each other, for a considerable distance, as to render it impossible for the firemen to approach it to any purpose at any point except in front, and such was the rapidity with which the flames communicated, it being very dry, that for several hours all the skill and energy of the firemen and citizens were almost entirely ineffectual in arresting their rage.

About 60 buildings were blown up, but this mode of operating proved less successful than was hoped. The progress of the fire was finally checked during the morning of the 14th, mainly by the use of the engines, two of which, unfortunately, were ruined by the flames.

We arrived in view of the distressing scene at about 12 o'clock today. Almost the entire business part of the town presents a spectacle of desolation. Stacks of chimneys and the ragged remains of walls were all that was left amid the burning, smoking and smouldering ruins. The fire has swept the heads of all the wharves except Commercial—not a building left on them.

Main street, as far up as Orange and Centre streets, is entirely gone on both sides. Federal, South Water, much of Union, Broad, North Beach, much of Centre and of North Water streets, and several of the smaller streets in the vicinity of them are gone.

Not a building is left in the region described. The number of buildings destroyed, including houses, stores, etc., is estimated at 350. Among the principal are Trinity Church, Washington Hall, the Atheneum, all the public houses in the place, the Custom House, with all the books and papers belonging to the office, the Post Office, the building containing various town offices, Manufacturers and Mechanics and Savings banks, both Marine Insurance offices and five oil manufactories, including Richard Mitchell & Son's, with 1000 barrels of oil (500 of which was lately sold to the government), and a large quantity of candle stock.

No lives were lost, but several persons were somewhat injured. Many were the sad countenances we saw around the scene of desolation—some of them are personal friends. Many who were rich yesterday are poor today. Many years must elapse before Nantucket can recover from this and other recent disastrous occurrences.

It cannot be supposed that the above account contains nearly all the facts connected with this awful calamity, as my time was limited and my visit to the place so soon after the abatement of the fire. I may have made some unintentional mistakes in the details, but I believe the above is substantially a statement of the facts as I have attempted to give them."

Being so near the anniversary of "the great fire," I think the above will be of interest to your readers.

Lilla Barnard Starbuck.

JULY 12, 1913

NEW BUILDINGS.

Below, we give the names of the occupants of the stores which have already been rebuilt in the burnt district,—except those in upper Main street, whom we attended to last week. We publish this list, which we believe to be correct and full, mainly for the benefit of our *Nantucket* subscribers abroad, who, we have no doubt, will like to learn something of the whereabouts of such of their old friends as were turned out of doors by the fire last July.

CENTRE STREET.

West Side.	East Side.
John B. Coffin,	N. A. & A. K. Sprague,
Josiah Sturtevant,	Heman Crocker,
Geo. A. Lawrence.	Chas. B. L'Honniedieu,
	John P. Swain,
	Brown & Sweet,
	A. M. Macy.

Those on the east side of this street occupy the stores in a large and handsome wooden block, owned by Messrs. Athearn & Riddell; in the second story of which is the Odd Fellows' Hall, a very neat and convenient room. The stores in this block are inferior to none in town, and the goods offered for sale there, are as various and tastefully arranged as they are anywhere in Main Street. Messrs. S. & T. Hussey are about erecting another wooden block next north of this.

FEDERAL STREET.

West Side.	East Side.
Win. C. Swain,	David G. Hussey, and
Joseph H. Starbuck,	a building owned by
Christopher B. Hussey,	Ansel Hamblin.

The Athenaeum and the Hall of the Sons of Temperance are also on this street; the former, larger and more convenient than its predecessor, which was destroyed by the fire; and the latter, a plain but very neat building, thirty feet by sixty and two stories high, erected by the Sons of Temperance, who have their hall in the second story, the lower being occupied by Messrs. Gardner & Macy, and by Joseph B. Swain, Insurance Agent.

WASHINGTON AND UNION STREETS.

Jonas Garfield,
Frederick A. Chase.

Capt. Chase has built up the same store he occupied before the fire, adjoining the Town's offices, which are now all occupied. Over the store of Frederick A. Chase is the office of the *Weekly Mirror*.

WATER STREET.

East Side.	West Side.
Zenas Coleman,	Paddock & Long,
John Winn,	Thomas C. Hamblin.
Ray & Jenkins,	
John A. Hussey,	
Alexander Ray Jr.,	
Smith & Valentine.	

LOWER MAIN STREET.

North Side.	South Side.
A. M. Myrick & Co.,	E. W. Gardner,
James H. Adams,	Alexander Cartwright,
Jas. N. Bassett,	George M. Jones.
David Wood,	
Francis Colburn,	
Gorham Macy,	
David C. Swain.	

CROSS WHARF.

Daniel Russell,	E. W. Perry,
A. W. Stebbins,	Tallant & Macy.

SOUTH WHARF.

B. & T. Folger.

OLD NORTH WHARF.

Charles Wyer & Co.

NEW NORTH WHARF.

A fine brick Oil Factory and Store House, belonging to Richard Mitchell & Son.

STRAIGHT WHARF.

The large fire-proof Store of Thomas Macy, the only fire-proof building in town.

On all the Wharves, Mechanics' Shops have been put up, and on the cross streets, Stables, Rig-lofts, &c.

The whole number of buildings now finished, in "the burnt district," is as follows: On Main street, one brick block of seven stores; one do. do. of five stores; one do. do. of four stores; one do. do. of two stores, and one wooden block of five stores: on Centre street, one wooden block of six stores,—and one hundred and sixteen other buildings on different streets and wharves in this sec-

tion of the town. There are also about twenty buildings now going up or contracted for, mostly dwelling houses. Although the height of the hurry is over, still a very considerable number of buildings, probably from fifty to seventy-five, will be erected the present year, in the burnt district, besides dwelling houses—of which we have already heard of some half dozen—in other parts of the town.

To persons abroad who may wish to visit Nantucket for the purpose of giving concerts, lectures, &c., we hereby give notice, that accommodations have been provided for them, which we think cannot fail to prove satisfactory. Of the large, beau-

THE INQUIRER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1847.

It is a year to-day since the great fire.—It commenced, indeed, on the 13th, at about 11 o'clock in the evening, but as most of the destruction of property took place after midnight, to-day is properly the anniversary of the conflagration, which was the most terribly calamity that has ever befallen Nantucket. The fire was got under about six o'clock on the morning of the 14th, Trinity Church, on Broad street, the tower of which fell about that time, being the last building of any considerable size that was burnt.

We do not intend, at this time, to dwell upon the fire and its consequences—it makes us sick at heart even to think of them. It is enough to say that the whole business portion of the town was destroyed, and a blow struck at our prosperity, from the effects of which we shall not probably recover for years, if we ever do.

There has of course been a good deal of building during the past year—for we must have stores to trade in, and people must have houses to live in. More than three hundred buildings were burnt—nearly one third of the town. Most of the principal streets are already considerably built up, though there are still a good many vacant lots on them. The back streets have been much less built upon, some of them scarcely at all. We should think that more than a third of the ground formerly occupied by buildings of some sort, is now vacant.

However, much has been done in the way of building—more, probably, than any one dreamed of, a year ago;—of stores, shops, dwelling-houses, &c., &c., not far from two hundred have been finished, or are going up. The stores are many of them, fine, substantial brick buildings, superior, in all respects, to their predecessors, and most of the dwelling houses have a very neat and comfortable appearance. The streets are generally much wider than they were before the fire; Main Street is perhaps rather too wide to look well. The width of the streets and the number of brick buildings on them, render it, we think, altogether unlikely that there will ever again be a fire in the business section of the town, like that of last Summer.

But, as we remarked above, Nantucket has not recovered, and is not likely to recover very soon, from the effects of the July fire. Many were entirely ruined by it, and the resources of many more seriously diminished. People abroad assisted us with a liberality above all praise, and the money, food and clothing which came so promptly from all quarters, did a world of good—for there were hundreds among us entirely destitute—but the bulk of the loss could not, of course, be made up to our people in this way. Nearly a million dollars' worth of property was destroyed—there was received, from insurance, \$300,000, and from other sources, about \$70,000—so that the net loss to the town was more than \$500,000—the value of about twenty whale ships. This great destruction of property has of course crippled us—how could it be otherwise!

Still, the amount of building that has been done under these unfavorable circumstances, shows, we think, that our citizens are not at all deficient in energy, and that there is capital enough here, if judiciously employed, to secure for Nantucket, and that within a few years, a prosperity as great as she ever enjoyed, and perhaps greater. Let but a portion of this capital be employed in enlarging our field of industry, so that abundant labor and good wages may be secured—as they easily can be—to all who are willing and able to work—the profits of capital being at the same time increased, as they undoubtedly would be—and, in a few years, not only might the loss by the fire be all made up, but the wealth and prosperity of the town be rendered greater than they ever have been. We care not what forms this increased demand for labor may be made to assume, so that they be judiciously selected—cotton mills, fishing fleets, cordage manufactories, whale ships, all are the same to us;—so that we get the substance, we are indifferent as to the form. Let the business of the town be enlarged to the extent of its capital, and the future will be well enough provided for; it is fear that it will not be thus enlarged, which makes us doubt whether Nantucket will recover very soon from the effects of the July fire.

OUR NEIGHBORS. Last Saturday evening, for the first time since the fire, lower Main street wore a really pleasant, and more than half familiar aspect. All the Fall, the street was uncomfortable and desolate enough at all times, but especially after dark. There were neither lanterns nor store-lights, and in the moonless evenings, the wayfarer had no little difficulty in picking his way among heaps of rubbish; piles of building materials, and open cellars. Even when moonlight and a clear sky made the travelling safe enough, nobody particularly cared to pass through the street;—it was so lonesome, so desolate, so unlike Nantucket, that people got out of it as soon as possible.

As time passed on, stores were finished and occupied, one after another, between the Pacific Bank and the wharf; but, though every new light made the street less dreary, there was still nothing really pleasant about it. There were too many long black spaces; the street looked too much as if it were only half peopled—as indeed it was—to have a particularly cheerful look.

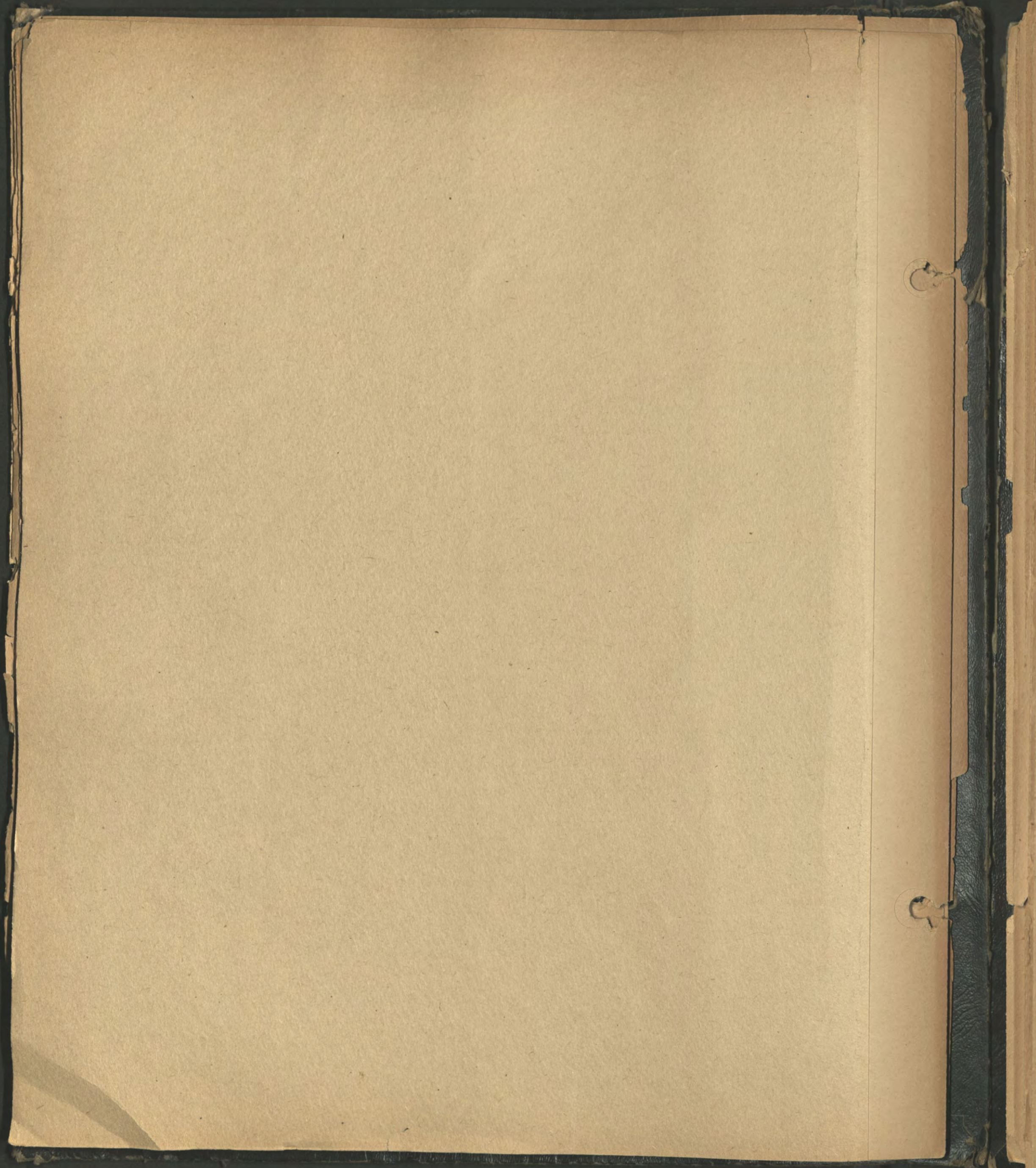
Last Saturday evening, the whole line of stores on the north side of the upper square were lighted up, for the first time together, and as people stood in front of the bank and looked down the street, both sides of it—except a few as yet unoccupied lots—bright and gay as ever, the remark was made by one to another, a hundred times over, "Well, this looks like old times; Main street really begins to look natural." To add to the effect, the weather being pleasant the street was thronged with people, just as it used to be, a year ago, on pleasant Saturday evenings. To the north of Main street, there are still a good many acres of the burnt district not built upon, nor likely to be, for years to come, but the trading part of the community are now far better accommodated than they ever were before.

The new stores are most of them of the very first class—spacious, well finished, well proportioned, and convenient. They have this advantage over their predecessors, that they were built, as most of the former were not, on purpose for stores; and many of them with special reference to the particular business of those by whom they are occupied. Accordingly, they are about all that could be asked, and we do not believe there is a town in the country, the stores of which, as a whole, will compare with those at Nantucket.

So every way right are they, that even the grocers are able to make beautiful displays of their merchandise, an achievement which we should have thought hardly possible. A neat grocery store, we should have said, was very possible, but a tasty and taking one, hardly.

But, let us just run over the new establishments that have been opened since we were last upon this subject. On the corner of Main and Centre streets, there are Messrs. Bradbury & Chase, who have the largest store on the street, and, as we think, about the best stand in town. Next to the east, is the hat and general furnishing store of our stirring friend Mr. H. C. Worth, the east half of his store being occupied by Mr. James Easton, 2d.—This we regard as one of the most neatly furnished stores in town; and we need not say that the stock is worthy of the store. Next are Messrs. Frederick Gardner & Co. We have not been into their store, but we have caught, through the windows, glimpses enough of rich and elegant merchandise, to render it clear that all, particularly ladies, who visit this establishment, will most certainly become purchasers to the extent of their ability. Of the stores of Messrs. Adams & Parker, Sturgis & Waitt, E. T. Wilson, F. Nickerson, G. R. Pierce & Co. and J. Cook, Jr. & Co., we have already spoken. On the south side of Main street, on the corner of Union, is Mr. T. W. Calder, who has a good store, well filled with the best of groceries, and who is, as usual, always at his post, ready to accommodate callers. In the same building is the store of Messrs. Fisher, Holmes, & Co., and the shaving saloon of Mr. West. These are all that have been opened on that side of the street, since we were last upon the subject of stores.

In the lower square, there are as yet but two stores finished and occupied, those of Messrs. Geo. W. Macy and Geo. W. Barrett, both of whom are ready to answer all demands in the hard-ware line, and both of whom have as good stores as heart could wish.



"BEFORE THE FIRE."

BUSINESS PEOPLE OF NANTUCKET
PRIOR TO THE SERIOUS CONFLAGRA-
TION OF 1846.

The list of coasters of Nantucket, recently printed in these columns, proved very interesting reading to many of our older readers, and suggested to Mr. Oliver Cobb and others, of Boston (former residents of Nantucket), the preparation of a list of people who did business in Nantucket prior to "the great fire" in the summer of 1846, which is compiled entirely from memory, and there may, therefore, be omissions or mis-locations, which would not be strange after the lapse of so many years. It is an interesting review of our predecessors, and the list will be followed by another soon, which is not yet completed. Mr. Cobb writes as follows: It appears to be needful to say, that it was not intended by the compiler of the foregoing list that it should be exhaustive, for he is aware that some of the older residents will recall names which might be added; and should any such be inclined to send you names not appearing, their contributions will add interest to the list you publish:

North Street.

Grocers.

Mary Coffin, Robert Calder.

Centre Street.

Grocers.

William Fitzgerald, Reuben Fosdick,
Samuel Barrett, Edward Hussey,
David Joy, Gorham Bunker,
Heman Crocker, Daniel Macy,
Clement Folger, Samuel N. Pollard,
David Upham, N. & A. Sprague,
Job Coleman, Edwin Myrick.

Boots and Shoes.

B. F. Gardner, Josiah Lawton,
William H. Jenks, Josiah Sturtevant,
William Bartlett.

Miscellaneous.—W. S. French, Dry Goods;
George A. Lawrence, Drugs, &c.; Avis Pink-
ham, Cake and Pastry.

Main Street, North Side.

Grocers.

S. S. Salisbury, R. Pollard, Jr.,
Joseph Nickerson, Charles P. Swain,
John P. Swain, A. W. Stebbins,
Orison Adams, Charles A. Worth,
George Parker, Folger & Brown,
John H. Shaw, Samuel Colburn.

Boots and Shoes.

Harvey Crocker, Simon Parkhurst,
Winslow Whittemore, J. W. Olin,
David Wood.

Barbers.

Nat Godfrey, John Reed,
Edward Center, William Robinson,
W. H. Crawford, S. & W. Harris,
G. F. Gleason.

Dry Goods.

George R. Gardner, Justin Lawrence,
Frederick Gardner, Bovey & Coffin,
Josiah Gorham, O. & N. Barney.

Hardware.

Thomas Gardner, Charles B. Swain,
George W. Barrett, James N. Bassett,
Daniel Jones.

Clocks and Jewelry.

Easton & Sanford, Samuel B. Swain,
Allen Kelley, Walter Folger.

Auctioneers.

George Folger, M. & N. Breed,
Gorham Macy.

Outfitters.

N. & L. Sturtevant, J. Cook, Jr., & Co.

Miscellaneous.—Edward Mitchell, Stationery;
Joseph B. Lawrence, Furniture; D. Prescott,
Fruits, &c.; Henry C. Worth, Hats & Caps;
Swan & Sherman, Grain; P. H. Folger, Cord-
age; T. & P. Macy, Oil and Candles; Dr. John
Brook, Barber; Reuben Macy, Medicines; Hen-
ry Clapp, Stationery.

Main Street, South Side.

Boots and Shoes.

Charles H. Starbuck, Henry S. Crocker,
John V. Sweet.

Dry Goods.

George A. Pierce, Elijah Alley,
Charles K. Pratt, F. W. Cobb,
George H. Riddell, Eliza Riddell,
Edwin Coffin, John W. Barrett,
George B. Upton, Andrew Lawrence.

Tailors.

Cromwell Barnard, A. T. Allen,
E. W. Allen, John C. Mitchell,
Morrell & McElroy, Timothy G. Clapp,
William Summerhayes.

Grocers.

George Shiverick, Joseph B. Macy,
Alexander Cathcart, D. R. Myrick.

Grain.

George B. Elkins, David Thain,
Baker & Coffin, E. W. Gardner,
Mitchell & Whitney.

Hardware.

William C. Swain, George W. Macy.

Variety.

Abby Betts, Isaac Austin.

Stationery.

Andrew M. Macy, John F. Macy.

Fish.

Meltiah Fisher, George Dunham,
Zimri Cleveland, John Beebe.

Painters.

George P. Whipple, Frederick W. Paddock,
Laban Paddock, Seth Paddock,
John Paddock.

Miscellaneous.—H. A. Kelley, Ship Stores,
Oil, Candles; William H. Geary, Hats, Caps;
Dr. C. F. Winslow, Drugs, &c.; Edward G.
Kelley, James H. Kelley and Henry A. Kelley,
Clocks, Watches and Jewelry.

North Beach Street.

Ropewalks.

Gardner Coffin, Henry Riddell.

Oil and Candle Factories.

David Joy, Barrett & Upton,
S. & T. Hussey, Seth Swift,
Aaron Mitchell.

Box Makers.

Alfred Swain, Moses Folger.

Brant Point.

Marine Railway.

North Cliff Street.

L. M. Wing, Brick Kiln.

North Water Street.

Tin Smiths.

Charles B. Macy, Charles G. Stubbs,
Swain & Hussey.

Grocers.

Robert F. Parker, Alexander Ray,
David Parker, Jr., Edward Sanford,
Edward W. Cobb.

Stables.

Joseph Hamblen, William Langton.

Saddlery.

H. C. Valentine, Zenas Coleman.

Painters.

William P. Smith, Thomas Smith,
Nathan Walker.

Shoemakers.

T. C. Hamblen, Lemuel Jones,
T. Hodgkins, George Parker,
Seth Chisby, Isaac Frye,
H. J. Stephenson, F. K. Ford,
Charles Lovell.

Miscellaneous.—Obed Mitchell, Hardware;
James Morse, Dry Goods; John Winn, Meats;
Sewall Short, Baker; John Peters, alias Dandy
Peters, Barber.

New North Wharf.

Blacksmiths.

Edward Folger, William Cobb,
Josiah Macy, Ben Simmons,
Geo. Swain.

Oil and Candles.

Hadwen & Barney, Richard Mitchell.

Bakers.

Nathaniel Tobey, Tristram Tobey.

Miscellaneous.—Samuel Mitchell, Ship owner;
William R. Easton, Cordage; Ansel Tobey,
Furniture; Matthew Mitchell, Cordage, Hoops,
&c.; S. B. Tuck, Merchant; Charles Easton,
Sailmaker; R. Ratliff, Rigger; Easton &
Thompson, Carpenters.

Broad Street.

Merab Pinkham, Grocer.

Old North Wharf

Painters.

George K. Long, Obed Long,
Nathan Walker, Thos. and W. P. Smith.

Meats &c.

H. G. O. Dunham, George Pollard,
Benoni Nickerson.

Blacksmiths.

E. D. Fisher, F. C. Gardner,
George M. Jones.

Sailmakers.

George Chase, R. F. Gardner,
George Brown.

Blockmakers.

Thomas F. Mitchell, John Whipple.

Sparmakers.

Joseph Edwards, Thomas Davenport.

Fish.

Walter Allen, S. H. Winslow.

Ship Stores.

S. and T. Hussey, Zaccheus Hussey.
Miscellaneous.—Peleg West, Innholder;
John Pinkham, Painter; Cyrus Hussey, Shoemaker;
Eben Tallant, Grocer; James F. Chase,
Rigger; Dixon & Wiggie, Hotel; Allen Kelley,
Painter; John Coleman, Shipwright; W. H.
Palmer, Painter.

Cross Wharf.

Grocers.

Nathaniel Tallant, Daniel Scudder,
Daniel Russell.

Miscellaneous.—Josiah Swain, Cordage; E.
W. Perry, Coal, Grain; Frank Colburn,
Grocer; David C. Swain, Coal; Joshua Parker,
Wood.

Old South Wharf.

Blacksmiths.

Josiah Coleman, Freeman Sherman,
William Hart, James Coleman.

Lumber.

Charles F. Gardner, Peleg Macy,
Daniel F. Macy.

Sailmakers.

Robert Coggeshall, William Coggeshall.

Blockmakers.

Thomas G. Barney, Charles G. Coggeshall.
Miscellaneous.—Sailor's Boarding House,
Alexander Wheeler; Timothy Gardner, Block
and Pump Maker.

Commercial Wharf.

Oil and Ships.

French & Coffin, Joseph Starbuck,
George Starbuck, Matthew Starbuck,
William Starbuck, Simeon Starbuck,
Levi Starbuck, Matthew Crosby,
William Crosby, James Athearn.

Blacksmiths.

Charles Paddock, Gustavus Gifford.
Miscellaneous.—Thomas D. Morris, Painter.

South Beach Street.

Brass Foundries.

Edward Field, Joseph Webb.

Miscellaneous.—Samuel Forbes, Carriages;
Thomas G. Barnard, Boat Builder; George H.
Folger, Steam Cooperage and Grist Mill;
Reuben R. Bunker, Twine Factory; Barker
& Athearn, Ropewalk.

Union Street.

Grocers.

Frederick A. Chase, Jonas Garfield.

Bakers.

James Westgate, Benjamin Pike.

Soap.

Thaddeus Hussey, Elisha Green.

Tanners.

Edward Macy, James Hazzard.

Miscellaneous.—C. G. & H. Coffin, Oil and
Candles; Joseph James, Ropewalk.

Washington Street.

Stables.

H. A. Kingsley, Rand & Sturtevant,
A. O. Butman, William T. Hight,
A. Durand.

Barbers.

A. Nahar, H. A. King.

Painters.

William H. Coffin, Maverick Coffin.
Miscellaneous.—George W. Jenks, Harnesses;
Gallagher & Drake, Soap.

Federal Street.

Dry Goods.

Ann Castle, Lydia Hosier.
Miscellaneous.—Nancy Hussey, Variety;
Benjamin Percival, Confectionery; Mrs. Thomp-
son, Ice Cream and Confectionery; William A.
Hosier, Hardware; Alexander C. Hussey,
Blacksmith; Ansel Hamblin, Shoemaker;
Mansion House, Mrs. Coffin.

Fair Street.

Grocers.

T. & N. Fitzgerald, A. W. Stebbins.

Miscellaneous.—James M. Coffin, Boot &
Shoe; Sarah Swain, Baker; Josiah Sturgis,
Marble Cutter; Isaac Folger, Boat Builder.

Orange Street.

Grocers.

Roland Coleman, Abram Swain.

Miscellaneous.—Barrett Beard, Butcher;
Davis Gorham, Crockery.

Upper Main Street.

Ropewalks.

Isaac Myrick, Matthew Myrick,
Alexander Dow.

Boatbuilders.

George Coffin, Reuben Coffin.

Gay Street.

Silk Factory, Edward Crane.

Academy Hill.

Woolen Factory.

Winter Street.

Elizabeth Chase, Boots, Shoes, Crockery.

Pleasant Street.

Grocers.

Peter Hussey, Elihu Swain,
Mrs. Gardner, Absalom Boston,
E. J. Pompey.

Miscellaneous.—Walter Folger, Astronomer.

Mill Street.

Grocers.

Hannah Fosdick, Benjamin Holmes.

Miscellaneous.—Mrs. Lawrence, Dry Goods.

Liberty Street.

Grocers.

John Hosier, Elihu Wilson.

Miscellaneous.—Nathaniel Earle, Miller;
Isaac Thompson, Brick Kiln.

Gardner Street.

Boat Builders.

E. R. Folger, Thomas Field.
Miscellaneous.—Aaron & Gideon Folger, Oil
Factory; Coffin Macy, Butcher; Alexander
Hussey, Carpet Weaver.

Pearl Street.

Tin Smiths.

F. C. Chase, Joseph H. Starbuck,
Pinkham.

Furniture.

James Tallant, James Delano.

Bakers.

Charles Cook, S. Wolcott.

Grocers.

Franklin Nickerson, Thomas A. Folger.

Miscellaneous.—John Whittemore, Hatter;
William Coleman, Boxmaker.

"BEFORE THE FIRE."

Carpenters.—John Coleman, Frederick B.
Coleman, John B. Coleman, George Coleman,
Charles Coleman, Elisha Hinckley, James
Weeks, Samuel Waldron, Joseph Poindexter,
Charles Sprague, Frederick Parker, Job Traf-
ton, Barzillai Burdett, Isaac Hallett, William
Hallett, Joseph Vincent, Daniel Vincent, Wil-
liam Jenkins, Asa C. Jones, Thomas Hussey,
William Whipple, Joseph Bodfish, George
Hosier, James Murphey, Andrew G. Hussey,
Ansel Tobey, Stephen Easton, Humphrey Can-
non, Thomas Cannon, John R. Macy.

Dye House.—Nathan P. Cartland.
Cabinet Makers.—Frederick C. Worth, Geo.
F. Worth, Rose Lane; Frederick Folger, Reu-
ben B. Folger, Orange street; Obed Joy,
Centre street; John J. Lefford, Lily street.

Grocers.—Chase & Wayman Bradbury, Main
street; Isaac H. Briggs, Union street.

Dry Goods.—Benjamin Callander, Rufus S.
Bates, Main street.

Ship Carpenters.—Edward Hammond, Wat-
son Holmes, Alexander C. Swain, Joseph
Davenport, — Smith, Job Handy, Jesse
Crosby, Shadrach Gifford.

Calkers.—Raymond.

Apothecaries.—Dr. Elisha Pease, Federal
street; John Brock, Reuben Macy, Edward
Mitchell, Jernegan & Baylies, Main street;
George A. Lawrence, Centre street; George
Cannon, Pearl street.

Tinmiths.—Henry Goodrich, F. C. Macy.

Lawyer.—James Bigelow.

Painter.—James H. Beetle.

Masons.—Eben Round, John Round, Noah
Pool, Charles Clark, Orange street; Thomas
Round, Daniel Clark, Academy Hill; Christo-
pher Capen, Pearl street; Joseph T. Worth, Ash
street; Daniel Chase, Milk street.

Blacksmiths.—James Blagdon, Burgess Sim-
mons, Reuel Rawson, Benjamin Knowles, John
Meador.

Coopers.—William Barney, Charles Barney,
David G. Barney, William Barney, Jonathan
Barney, George Cobb, Peter Folger, James East-
on, Edward H. Easton, Frank Easton, Freder-
ick Easton, George Easton, Oliver Easton, Al-
bert C. Easton, Alexander Coffin, Charles H.
Coffin, John Elkins, Moses Joy, George Fitch,
Benjamin L. L. Hommedieu, William L. Homme-
dieu, Charles Myrick, Edwin Myrick, Nathan
M. Gardner, George Turner, Benjamin F. Fol-
ger, David G. Folger, David C. Adlington,
Reuben Ellis, Jethro Gardner, Reuben Meador,
William Bunker, Reuben Coffin, Frank Gar-
dner, Benjamin Chase, William H. Chase.

Newspaper Editors.—S. H. Jenks, William H.
Dennis, George F. Bemis, E. W. Cobb, Nan-
tucket Inquirer; John Morissey, Nantucket
Mirror; C. C. Hazewell, Islander.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Mr. Editor:

In making up my list of teachers last week, I
inadvertently omitted former teachers of the
Coffin School. Its friends may feel slighted if I
do not mention the following names: William
Coffin, Jr., Hiram B. Dennis, Frederick Vinton,
William H. Hewes, — Wood. I do not call
to mind given names of latter, who, I think,
taught prior to 1846.

Alexander Bunker landlord of sailor board-
ing house, South Wharf, was white man;
Wheeler, who kept another house at head of
South Wharf, was colored.

The following persons assumed the title of
Doctor: Elisha Pease, Federal street; Job
Sweet, Orange street; John Buck, Main street;
George A. Lawrence, Centre street; John Ad-
lington, Chicken Hill; James Ross, Guinea,
whose chief medicine was "Apple Peru."

Clergymen, Centre street.—Bodfish, Noble,
Morse, Crandall, Coggeshall, Talbot.

Baptist.—O. T. Walker.

Physicians.—C. F. Winslow, — Bell, —
Ekel.

Lawyers.—John Whittemore, John Patch.

Dentists.—Ward, Chandler, Metcalf, Tobey,
Gilman, Jenks, Abbott, D. G. Hussey, A. G.
Coffin.

Music Teachers.—Theo Barker, Mrs. Graves,
Charles Brown, Victor Williams, J. Sturtevant,
Israel Camp, Irenus Franklin.

Nathaniel Barney was a teacher, Friends'
School; James B. Thomson, North High School
(private); A. B. Whipple, Town High School;
John Boodle (not Boodle), Friends' School.

Josiah Hussey, or "Squire Hussey," was chief
police justice many years, during the palmy
days of the town, having his

These requisitions to the population of the town, were a constant source of turbulence, and the constables were continually engaged in quelling disturbances of the peace, and arresting for trial perpetrators of crimes more or less heinous. If ever justice was meted out to a criminal, it was by Squire Hussey in his Bow street court. That section of the town then known as Guinea, was nightly a perfect pandemonium, where were congregated all sorts of evil characters, who, through the livelong night, rendered more desperate by liquor, which was freely sold without molestation by dealers of both sexes, indulged in most disgusting and demoralizing acts, and it was from among the participants in such horrid orgies, that officers of the law gathered their victims for presentation to the impartial squire, at his morning session. The boys were all held in most wholesome restraint, by the certain knowledge that their misdeeds would certainly subject them to an experience before the "squire," which would bring free and merited punishment, were their delinquencies proved against them. Should some of our judges of criminal cases to-day be more severe in assigning penalties to criminals, it may be that crime would be diminished. The examples of Squire Hussey, of Nantucket, and Russell, of Boston, might well be imitated.

Attached is a list of merchant ship-masters which has been handed to me with the request that they also be printed.

Merchant Ship-Masters.—David Baxter, Reuben Baxter, R. R. Bunker, Paul West, Stephen West, Benjamin Worth, Jonathan C. Briggs, Hezekiah Barnard, Coffin Whippey, Charles Gardner, Edmund Gardner, Grafton Gardner, David C. Baxter, David C. Mitchell, Hezekiah Coffin, Rowland Coffin, Henry F. Coffin, David Worth, Griffin Barney, Joshua Coffin, William Mooers, Edward Carey, Thomas Carey, Andrew Brock, George H. Brock, William Plaskett, Jesse Baker, Richard Mitchell, jr., William Cartwright, Eben Hinckley.

Very truly,
OLIVER COBB.

For The Inquirer and Mirror.

Mr. Editor:
Additions to the list of business men at Nantucket before the great fire in 1847, are invited, and I offer the following. I've been gratified in reading the names and pursuits of so many active men, and thank Mr. Cobb for such a valuable contribution. There is much unwritten history of the island and people, and those who can remember the past should enlighten the present:

NORTH BEACH STREET.

Oil and Candle Factories.—Paul Gardner, Obed Mitchell, Samuel Mitchell, Samuel B. Tuck.

Boatbuilders.—Meador, Myrick & Coffin.
Coopers.—George Easton, Reuben Meador.

NORTH WATER STREET.

Dry Goods.—R. & A. C. Myrick.
Justice of the Peace.—Josiah Hussey.
Blacksmith.—Paul Hussey.

NEW NORTH WHARF.

Oil and Candle Factories.—Francis Joy, Paul Mitchell, Eunice Mitchell & Sons—Albert and John R.

Woolen Factory.—Obed Mitchell.
Blacksmiths.—Matthew Barker, John Knowles, Benjamin Knowles, Frederick Easton.

Sailmaker.—Benjamin Brown.

CHESTER STREET.

Coopers.—William Barney and James Coffin.
Shipowner and Manufacturer.—Griffin Barney.

FAIR STREET.

W. India Goods.—Joseph Cartwright.

PINE STREET.

Boatbuilders.—Fisher, Folger & Chase.

Soap.—Derby.

GARDNER STREET.

Coopers.—Shubael Barnard, Paul Ray.
Butcher.—Simeon Macy.
Grocer.—Solomon Morse.

This small addition does not make the list perfect; but others will contribute, and more information will be obtained.

CHARLES F. SWAIN.

"BEFORE THE FIRE."

The following list of former clergymen, etc., furnished us by Mr. Oliver Cobb, will be supplemented by one more in the next issue, naming coopers, etc. The list published last week proved very interesting to older readers, and one gentleman found that but thirty-eight of the persons there mentioned are now living:

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL (NORTH) CHURCH.

Clergymen.—Barzallai Shaw, M. Bonney, M. Gurney, Abner Morse, Stephen Bailey, Nathaniel Cobb, Stephen Mason, William J. Breed, J. S. C. Abbott, George C. Partridge, George Thacher, Benjamin Judkins, Charles Rich, S. D. Hosmer (acting pastor).

CENTRE STREET METHODIST.

Clergymen.—J. N. Maffit, T. C. Pierce, ————, Harding, ————, Harlow, John Lord, John Lovejoy, M. P. Aldemar, Stephen Lovell, John T. Burrill, J. T. Hasted, Daniel Wise, M. Barnaby, William Livesey, Samuel Upham, ————, Bradford, ————, Stickney, ————, Lindsay, ————, Patten, ————, Filmore.

FAIR STREET METHODIST.

Clergymen.—Blake, ————, Bates, ————, Harlow, ————, Dwight, ————, Dunbar, J. T. Stoddard, ————, Beadle.

EPISCOPAL.

Clergymen.—E. Allen, M. Marcus, F. L. Pollard.

COLORED.

Clergymen.—Arthur Cooper, George Washington, J. E. Crawford, M. Berry.

BAPTIST.

Clergymen.—Daniel Round, F. Johnson, O. T. Walker, ————, Burlingame, A. J. Gorham, ————, Jeffrey, ————, Knapp, T. Clark.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Unitarian Clergymen.—Seth F. Swift, Henry F. Edes, W. H. Knapp, J. G. Forman, Thos. Dawes.

Universalist Clergymen.—William Morse, George Bradburn, F. C. Swain, B. Waterman.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Principals.—George Mitchell, Benjamin Hussey, Samuel Hussey, Cyrus Pierce, William C. Folger, Thomas Rand, Samuel Austin, Samuel Kent, Mark Coffin, S. R. Mead, Samuel G. Mitchell, Matthew Barnard, John Bridgman, Luther Robinson, B. Shaw, S. Bailey, Gurney, Edward Freeman, (old hickory Ned), William Mitchell, George Cobb, Obed Barney, Simeon Balch, William Coffin, Enos Balch, George Crosby, Professor Beauregard, Farnham Spofford, William H. Hewes, John Boodle, George G. Ide, E. M. Gardner, J. B. Thomas, Augustus Morse, Samuel Mitchell, Allen H. Weld, William Carlton, Seth Sears.

BANKS.

Phenix.—Philip H. Folger, cashier.
Pacific.—James Athearn, William Mitchell.
Citizen's.—William C. Starbuck.
Manufacturers and Mechanics.—Barker Barnell.

The "Nantucket" Bank was opened to business January, 1795, and was robbed soon after. Capital stock of bank \$40,000, to be paid in three instalments. One instalment had been paid in. Deposits had been made. Bank lost as follows, as stated in indictment against alleged robbers:

400 pieces French coined gold	\$1,733.
150 Spanish pistols,	550.
300 English guineas,	1,400.
50 Half guineas,	116.
22 Pieces coined gold half Wannes,	176.
18 " " " " quarter "	72.

No. dollars	\$4,047.
12,007.	
4430 French crowns	4,873.

\$20,927.

Lawyers.—Walter Folger, Josiah Hussey, Daniel Coffin, Isaac Whitman, Charles K. Whitman, J. F. Dearborn, Charles Bunker, James M. Bunker, Daniel Parkhurst, E. M. Gardner.

Physicians (regular).—Roland Gelston, Oliver Cromwell Bartlett, Martin T. Morton, George Cannon, Nathaniel Ruggles, Paul Swift, Elisha P. Fearing, A. Southard, William P. Cross, Henry Russell, J. Parkinson, ————, Isham, ————, Richter.

Hotels and Inns.—Dixon's Tavern, Cross Wharf, ————, Dixon, landlord; Wheeler's Tavern, cor. South Wharf and Whale streets, Wheeler, landlord; Sailor Boarding House, Old South Wharf, Alexander Bunker (colored), landlord; Washington House, Main street, Elisha Starbuck, landlord; Mansion House, Federal street, kept successively by Mark Coffin, Samuel Cary, Mrs. R. F. Parker, Mrs. William Coffin; Gosnold House, Jarvis Robinson and Geo. W. Wright, landlords; Ocean House, R. F. Parker, also Jarvis Robinson, landlords; Gardner House, Main street, opposite Federal, by Mrs. Eliza Ann Barney, now living on Liberty street, one of the "Chase girls;" Atlantic House, Siasconset, H. S. Crocker, also by Mrs. R. F. Parker.

Correspondence Inquirer and Mirror.

WHAT SAVED THE WEST PART?

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Perhaps there is not a scholar in any school upon the island, who has any idea of what is really meant when you refer to the "great fire of '46;" for a person must have attained the age of thirty at least, in order that any recollection of it may be had. The children of to-day would hardly believe you, should you tell them that the district burnt over was thirty acres in extent, and that not a single structure, except perhaps a half-a-dozen brick ones, the insides of which were consumed, and possibly some wooden ones on the New North wharf, though I am not sure, remained unburnt. The day following the fire enabled us to see only a vast extent of smoking debris and blackened chimnies, embracing the district enclosed within a line run as follows, viz: Begin at a point at the water's edge, a short distance north of Hayden's bathing house, extend it up to North street, through the short lane of which the William Watson house makes the northeast corner on North street. Let it cross North street diagonally, in a southwesterly direction, to Ash street, including one house on the lower north corner; extend it south on the west side, along North street to the north side of Broad street, up Broad street back of the houses on the north side, to and including the Trinity (Episcopal) church, which stood on the lot now occupied by the house of Mrs. C. G. Allen; at this point the Ocean House stopped the fire from going west. Then run the line diagonally to the corner of Quince and Centre streets, back of the engine house on the corner, and from this point southerly to the Methodist chapel, enclosing everything east of this line except the house next north of the chapel, then occupied by Frederick Worth. From this point, in front of the chapel, let the line run in a southeasterly direction across Main street till it includes the third building on the East side of Orange street, opposite the house now occupied by C. H. Dunham, but then the dwelling of Daniel Jones, Esq., one of the wealthiest merchants; extend the line eastward to Union street, just north of the dwelling of Dr. J. B. King, and then southeast to a point a little north of the George Myrick house on Washington street, thence easterly again to the water, not very far north from the head of Commercial wharf. I am pretty sure I have enclosed the burnt district correctly. If not, perhaps an older native may take the trouble to run the line aright; at any rate you will say enough has been enclosed to entitle the fire to the claim of having been a "great" one. You may well believe the people thought so, as they stood in groups of hundreds the next day along the western line on Centre street, and looked toward the harbor over those black acres, from which the smoke arose in such density as to veil that July morning sun. I have not the statistics on hand or I would tell you how many candle factories, sail lofts, rig lofts, coopers', blacksmiths' and block-makers' shops, stores, dwelling houses, &c., (I wish you would print them) were consumed, but I think the value of destroyed property reached almost half a million dollars. This occurred July 13, 1846, between the hours of 10, P. M. of that and 8, A. M., of the next day. I remember standing in front of the last house burnt on the northern line, on the morning of the 14th, between 7 and 8 o'clock. It was owned by Aaron Mitchell, and was on North street, directly opposite the foot of the lane that runs out of Centre street opposite the North Church. All I could liken it to was an oven full of hottest flames, rolling, roaring and surging in a fearful manner. The house was a brick one, and stopped the fire at this point, and I presume that the fire was confined east of Orange street, by the brick dwellings on the opposite corner of Main and Orange streets, the Philip Folger and Daniel Jones houses. When I had decided, on looking out of our store at the back, (located where is now Mrs. Ray's library,) that our building must be devoured by the terribly raging body of flames that was rapidly advancing, licking up everything combustible in its ferocious advance, I crossed the street, Centre, to the north side of the Pacific Bank where the engine "Active" was stationed, (well named, if one may judge from the amount of good service she rendered that night). It usually took about forty men to man her. As there were not many more than twice that number at this point, and half of these were engaged

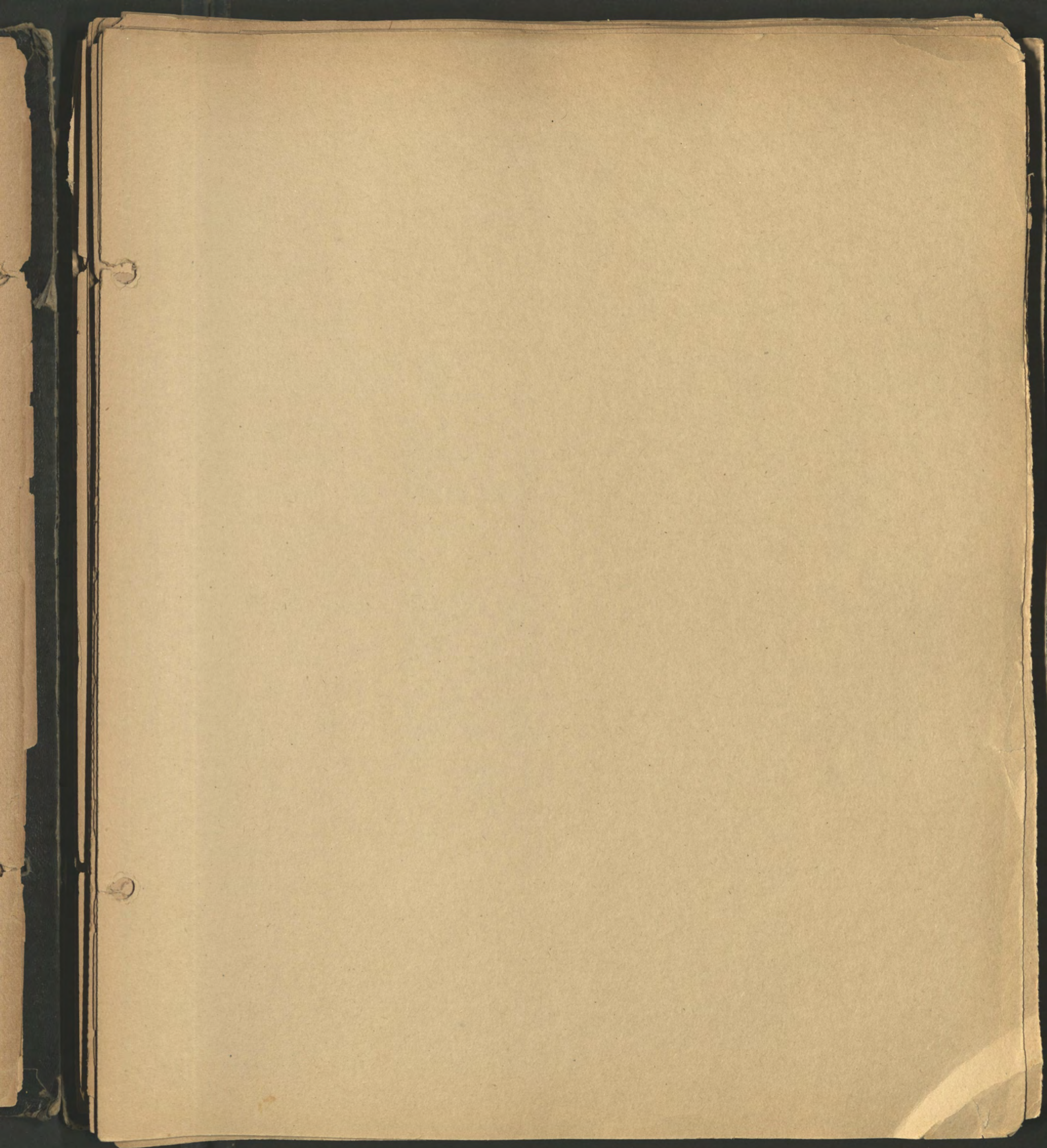
in pumping water from the wells and cisterns near and passing it to the engine in fire or other buckets, and were also occupied in hanging carpets over the east end of the chapel, and passing water up through the chapel and out upon the roof and over upon the carpets, you will at once see that there was but little chance for any one to become a member of the sidewalk committee, that is usually present at such times, in force, and so I helped man the brakes, for every pound of my hundred weight counted double then. It seemed at times as though we must dispense with the services of the little "machine," so almost entirely used up were the people at the brakes. They however only rested when obliged to by the want of water, which at times during the night nearly failed us, as well after well and cistern after cistern were emptied of their contents, and search was made for a supply. I don't think that a man left his post through that long, fearful night, but brakeman, pumper, water-passer, carpet-hanger, and water-thrower each held constantly and tirelessly to his work and thus helped to save the whole west part.

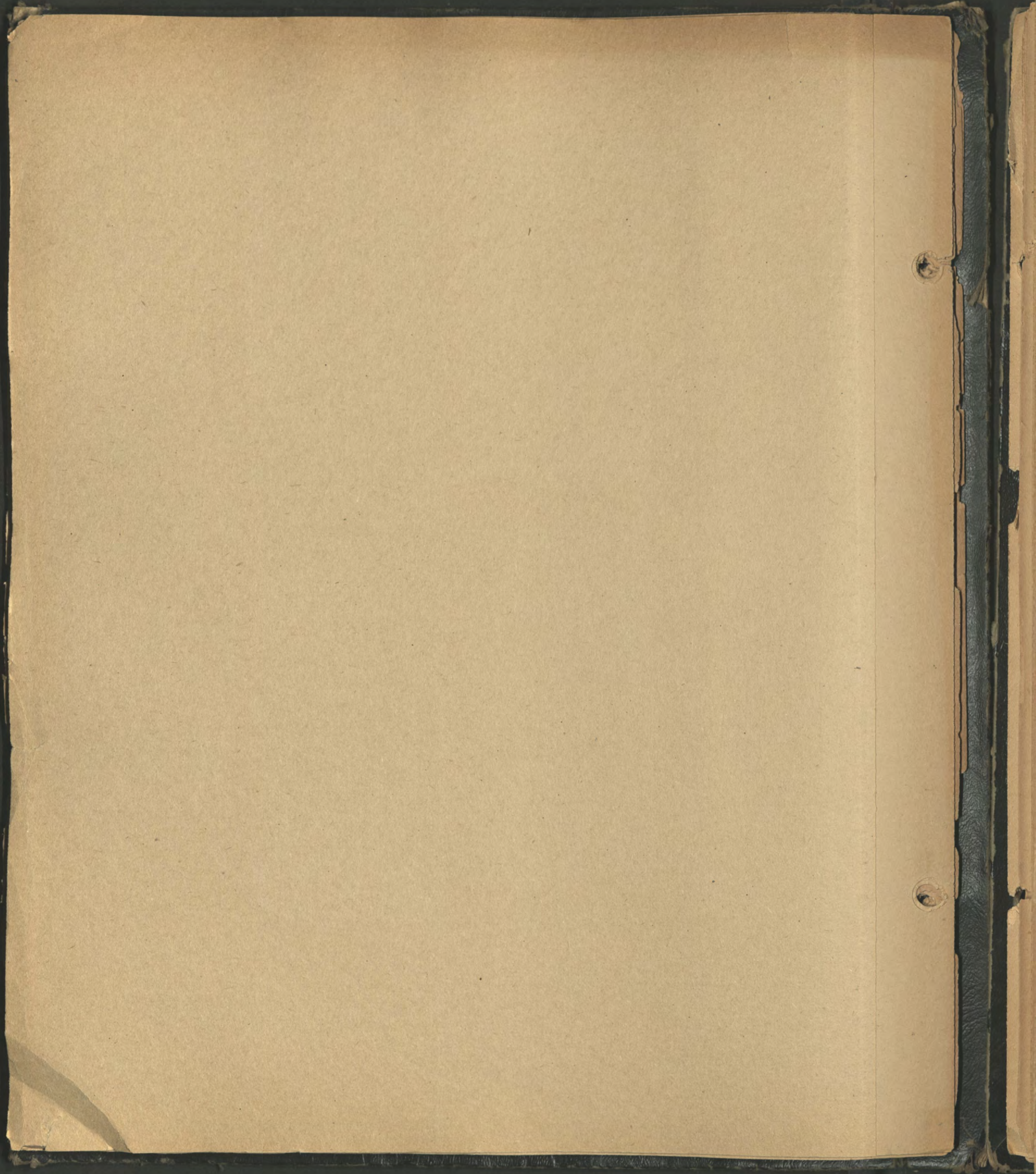
What an interesting chapter of fire reminiscences could be written by "W. R. E.," "F. C. S.," and others, above whose signatures are frequent interesting communications in your weekly issue.

C.

June 7, 1879

Wm. B. Easton?
Fred. J. Sanford?





The Selectmen have, within a few days, at letters of thanks to the different individuals and societies abroad, by whom those among us who suffered severely by the July fire, have been so generously assisted. The following is a copy of the document in question. It tells its own story; no comments of ours are needed. We will just remark that, in the distribution of the money and other articles received, the Selectmen appear to have exercised the greatest possible care, and that we believe it to be the general opinion of our people, that they have succeeded in making as just a division of them among the sufferers, as under the very difficult circumstances of the case, was at all possible.

FRIENDS:—The undersigned, Selectmen of the town of Nantucket, having finished their labors in the distribution of the bounty entrusted to them from abroad, for the relief of the sufferers by the calamitous fire of the 13th and 14th of July last, feel called upon to give an account of their stewardship.

Our first care was to send our appeals and circulars abroad, asking aid for the distressed part of our community; and from more than one hundred cities and towns we have received substantial evidence of their good feeling toward them. Your bounty has been large and well-timed;—about sixty-four hundred Dollars worth of Provisions, Clothing, Furniture and Dry Goods, have been received, and fifty-six thousand four hundred ninety-eight 53-100 Dollars in money.

In distributing what has been intrusted to our care, we have kept constantly in view the wish of the donors—**“RELIEF TO THE DISTRESSED.”**

We have not been able to adopt any fixed rate of per centage, but have varied it with circumstances, as but few cases were alike, and our aim was rather to relieve the distressed than to give to those who had much left, however severe their loss might have been.

To the aged and infirm, to widows and other destitute females, and to orphans, we have handed out freely of your gifts, and in some few extreme cases, have nearly or quite made good their loss, when it has not exceeded five hundred dollars; than which a greater amount has in no individual case been awarded.

The recipients are more than four hundred and sixty persons, of whom three hundred and fifty are heads of families; so that the whole number actually assisted is upward of thirteen hundred and fifty persons. Of the first number, three hundred and fifty-six were very destitute, and a large proportion of them entirely so; these received in money, forty-nine thousand, eight hundred and thirty-four dollars. Those to whom the remainder was given, had little or no available means. Among the first-named class, were eighty-six persons over sixty years old, and one hundred and fifty-six females, a large proportion of whom are widows.

The recipients have generally been well satisfied, and very grateful for your bounty bestowed upon them. Some few of the recipients, as we have since found, were not entitled to assistance; but while they have received it through false statements, they have also received our just rebuke.

In the distribution of your munificence, we have acted independently of the few in our community who attempted to control us. All has been done under our direction. If we have not done right, we alone are to blame. All is accounted for, and we believe we have dispensed it faithfully, and according to the best of our ability, judiciously; and so conscious are we of integrity of purpose, that it will give us pleasure, at any time, to open our books to any of the donors, or to give them any other information they may desire.

Friends,—your generosity and sympathy for the distressed, entitle you to our sincere thanks, and we here, for the inhabitants of Nantucket, for the recipients of your bounty, and for ourselves personally, publicly and heartily tender you the same. When hundreds of families were without a roof to cover them or a bed to lie upon, and very many of them without a change of raiment,—when widows and old men had been stripped of their all, and had no hopes for the future, except such as were founded on the humanity of others,—it was then you so liberally and so promptly responded to the call of the distressed, bound up their broken hearts, and sent them on their way rejoicing;—and surely Heaven's choicest blessings will be your reward.

For our services we have charged nothing—we have received nothing; but having the approval of our own consciences, and believing the course which we have pursued in dispensing what you have so liberally furnished, will not fail to secure your approval and that of the recipients generally, and having been the instruments in your hands, of making many destitute and desponding families comfortable and happy, by whom many a tear of gratitude has been shed, and from whom many a prayer of thankfulness has gone up to high Heaven;—these more than compensate for all the care which has devolved upon us in being the almoners of your bounty.

The whole number of buildings burned is upward of three hundred and sixty, and the whole amount of property destroyed about one million of dollars. There was insured about three hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and there has been received from abroad about seventy thousand dollars,—leaving an actual loss of about six hundred thousand dollars.

Nantucket, January 22d, 1847.

JOB COLEMAN,
NATHANIEL RAND,
OBED SWAIN,
EBEN W. ALEEN,
WILLIAM BARNEY,
CHARLES G. COFFIN,
ALFRED FOLGER.

In addition to the above, the Selectmen, in behalf of the sufferers in this town by the fire of the 13th and 14th of July last, would gratefully tender their thanks to all persons,—proprietors and directors of Railroads, Steamboats, Canal boats, Expresses, Packets, &c., and others—who have so generously transported, free of charge, Goods, Money, &c., sent to this place in aid of the sufferers.

NANTUCKET SUFFERERS. A CARD.

The Town of Nantucket in Town meeting assembled, by the their Resolution, charged the undersigned with the duty of expressing to the several Towns, Cities, Corporations, Societies and associations, and also to individuals collectively and separately, who have nobly and generously contributed for the relief of their suffering fellow citizens on the occasion of the late disastrous fire, their grateful sense of the relief afforded, as letter after letter was read abounding with sympathy and benevolence.

In performing this duty, it is difficult to find language that will give full utterance to the swelling emotions of gratitude and of deep feeling that pervaded the entire assemblage; bountifully have you responded to our appeal, and in the name of our common humanity, we thank you, in the name of the houseless widow, the naked and hungry children, we think you, and the silent tear of gratitude which moistened the cheek of helpless old age, will bear the record of our kindness to realms beyond the grave; he balm of consolation and comfort was freely poured in for the relief of our distresses in the name of, the whole Town, we again thank you, and we ardently pray that Heaven's choicest blessings may reward your noble munificence.

THOMAS MACY.

Nantucket 9m. 3d. 1846. Moderator.
Papers of the several Towns and Cities, will please copy.

Sept. 12, 1846

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A CARD.

THE SELECTMEN OF NANTUCKET gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following, viz:—

From Citizens of Grafton, by Luke Leland,
1 box Clothing, 1 bale Sheetting.
Lynn, by Wm. Webster, 1 box Cocoa
and Chocolate, 2 bbls. Clothing, 1
Bandbox.
Citizens of New York, by J. Macy
& Sons, 2 Tables, 1-2 dozen Chairs,
Cot-Bedsteads.
First Church in Brighton, by
Frederick Augustus Whitney, \$85.00
A Citizen of Boston, 1.00
Methodist Society of Barnstable
by Nath'l Hinekey (4th remittance,) 20.00
Second Baptist Society, Cambridge, by James D. Green,
Mayor, (2d remittance,) 30.50
Citizens of Lee, by Amos G.
Hurlburt and Edward S. May
2 boxes containing Satinett,
Tweed Cotton Cloth, Paper,
Shoes, and 14 bundles Tea
Paper, &c.,
—, 1 bundle Ladies' and
Men's Clothing.
Citizens of Oxford, by Jasper
Brown, 63.00
Rev. Thomas Hill's Society,
Waltham by Nathaniel May-
nard \$123.70
John Whitney, 16.00
Moses B. Webster, 10.50
Francis G. Farnsworth, 7.00
Citizens of Braintree, by El-
liot L. White, 2 boxes Cloth-
ing, Bonnets, &c. 157.20
Citizens of Yarmouth Port, by
Hon. John Reed, Isaiah Cro-
well, and Nath'l Cogswell, 203.53
Collections in Churches in
Carlestown, by H. P. Fairbanks, 137.60
s14 CHAS. G. COFFIN, Treasurer.

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THOMAS MACY.

Nantucket 9m. 3d. 1846. Moderator.
Papers of the several Towns and Cities, will please copy.

Sept. 19, 1846

CARD.

The undersigned, in behalf of the sufferers by fire, gratefully acknowledge the reception of the stoves embraced in the following schedule, viz:—

Nathaniel Starbuck & Son, Troy, N. Y.,
4 No. 2 Stewart Summer and Winter Cooking
Stoves, at \$18, \$72.00
P. P. Stewart, Troy, N. Y.,
4 do. do., 72.00
Samuel Pierce, Troy, N. Y.,
1 No. 2 American, 14.00
Johnson & Cox, Troy, N. Y.,
1 do., 14.00
Anthony Davy & Co., Troy, N. Y.,
3 No. 1 Washington Air-tight Cooking
Stoves, at \$15, 45.00
Geer & Bosworth, Troy, N. Y.,
1 Telegraph Cook Stove,
George Fry, Troy, N. Y.,
1 2d hand Philadelphia Stove, 5.00
Elihu Smith, Troy, N. Y.,
1 Trujita Pioneer, for Coal, 15.00
Atwood, Cole, & Crane, Troy, N. Y.,
2 No. 1 Empire, at \$14, 28.00
John Morrison, Troy, N. Y.,
1 Troy Air-tight,
Cornell & Ingalls, Troy, N. Y.,
Lot of Iron Ware, 7.00
Wager & Dutton, Troy, N. Y.,
2 No. 1 Improved Wager Cook Stoves,
at \$15, 30.00
21 Stoves \$334.00

Although they came late in the season, the excellent quality of the stoves is a full compensation for the disappointment consequent upon the delay; and this being the only invoice of stoves which has been received, gives an additional value to the generous donation.

Four of the above stoves were brought hither by our townsman, Charles B. Macy, without any charge of freight. For this gratuity he will please accept our thanks.

BENJAMIN GARDNER, 4th,
NATHANIEL BARNEY.

Nantucket, 12th mo., 30th, 1846.

The undersigned would, in similar terms, and for the same object, acknowledge the reception of Cash, Furniture, Bedding, Dry Goods, Clothing and Provisions (and in several instances the donations have been again and again repeated) from William Rutch, Jr., Elizabeth Rodman, Mary Rutch, Sarah R. and Elizabeth R. Arnold, Samuel Rodman, Anna Robeson, and James B. Congdon, of New Bedford; and a quantity of stocking yarn, now on its way from his Woolen Factory in Waterloo, N. Y., the gift of Richard P. Hunt.

NATHANIEL BARNEY.

CARD.

THE SELECTMEN OF NANTUCKET gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following:

From Pocasset, by ——— 1 bbl Flour.
Citizens of Edinboro, 16 cords of oak,
and 1 pile wood rec'd at different times.
Rev Mr. Durant's Society, of New-
bury, by Samuel Smith, \$13.11
Citizens of Providence, by E. R.
Young, 2.00
Citizens of Philadelphia, by James
Mott, 370.53
Joseph Davis & 11 others, of pilot boat
Superior, of Tibbury, 16.36
Citizens of Auburn, by David Right,
2 bbls Flour, 1 bbl Beans, and 1 bale
wood.
CHAS. G. COFFIN,
Treasurer.

Jan. 2, 1847

The readiness with which people conform to circumstances, and learn to trudge along in a narrower path than they have been wont, with less elbow room, and no place to hang their hats, is singularly exemplified now-a-days, in these diggings. Merchants who occupied spacious stores, with all the paraphernalia of taste and convenience, large windows and brilliant chandeliers, are now cooped up in tiny buildings, where their wares are dealt out, and where two persons of Aldermanic proportions, with the usual turtle soup paunches, would find it utterly impossible to pass each other, without such a terrible squeeze, as would endanger the safety of their *bilers*. Other traders who could not procure such "splendid locations," have stuck out shingles upon dwelling-houses in more retired places, as evidence of their location in the "front room." Chaise and wood houses have been dragged from their retirement, and placed upon sites formerly filled by nobler piles of boards and shingles; necessity endowing them with an importance which their capacities, under ordinary circumstances, would never have secured—just as men of inferior abilities obtain place and power, for which they are in no wise fitted. The occupants of the aforesaid shanties, stroke their chins, and look with lofty disdain, upon their less fortunate fellows, who have gone into retrage; manifesting as much complacency and importance, as a month or two previous they would have done, had a few thousand dollars been left them. Let them crow and assume airs; by-and-by, we guess they'll feel a little streaked, when the tables are turned upon themselves.

Aug. 22, 1846

The alteration of the streets is going on as briskly as circumstances will admit. Persons are flected backwards, upwards, downwards, or fair compensation allowed for their land, as circumstances require—all of which has been done, we believe, thus far, without creating the slightest ill feeling. When the alterations are completed, and buildings erected, the principal business streets of Nantucket, will probably be the most spacious of any town in the Union. Main street, with the prospective Hotel, Washington Hall, and spacious stores, will be a beauty. Federal street with its Atheneum, &c., and Centre street with its tasty stores and dwelling houses, will be several degrees above the sneezing point. Enterprize has "riz" in this quarter, and things are going right ahead, the "safety valve" being kept under the "bursting pint."

Aug. 22, 1846

It is really pleasant to see the squads of workmen operate in the district. They are regular as clock-work—going the ten hour system, and no more; which is enough for any human being to labor in one day, and all that ought to be required of him. The workmen commence at the tick of the town-clock, and drop the hammer at the sound of the appointed hour. It is lively times now, the streets are filled with strange faces, and we are no longer able to trace the birth and parentage of all our population. One thing we take pride in saying, that so far as we can judge, those persons who have been drawn hither by the abundance of employ, are a steady, hard-working set of men. We wish some business could be "scared up" whereby steady employment might be given our citizens for years to come. It is a good time now to con the matter over.

Sept. 12, 1846

Main street is rapidly assuming a cheerful visage, compared to the sad and sombre one it has worn for some months past; although some parts of it even now looks sorrowful and neglected. Since the fire, it has been at the imminent risk of limbs, for a person who was not a good pilot, to venture through the streets in the evening, owing to the false economy of the town in not lighting the street lanterns, and the fact that most of the thoroughfares are literally "lumber laden." Especially has this been the case in Main street, and pedestrians whose business called them into it of an evening, were made to regret the absence of the stores, with their brilliant burners, making light and pleasant their pathway. Within the past two weeks, several stores have been occupied by "old stagers," and not a few young men had the blues driven off, by merely gazing at the spacious windows for the space of 10 minutes by the town clock; two bachelors have resolved to get married and purchase "solars," and five young ladies of delicate fibre actually fainted, from an ecstasy of delight, caused by contemplating some "loves" of dresses temptingly suspended in the windows. The aforesaid bachelors resuscitated two of the ladies by popping the question, and the remaining three revived, having "hopes."

The basement of the house of P. H. Folger Esq., has been converted into two stores, which are as neat and tasty as heart of a "belle" could desire—respectively occupied by F. W. Cobb as a Dry Good store, and E. W. Allen, as a Cloth and Clothing emporium.

Next in occupancy is the pretty little block of five stores, erected by Mr. E. G. Kelley, a very good imitation of Granite. The first is occupied by Messrs. E. & J. Kelley, as a Watch, Clock, and Fancy store. As the girls would say, it is a "love of a store," the internal finish, and arrangement of Rich Goods, being in exquisite taste, the whole forming a "brilliant combination," probably never before equalled on this "isle of the sea."

Mr. Wm. H. Geary occupies the next, as a Hat, Cap and Fur store, combining neatness, modesty and good taste. The Post Office is next, in the arrangements of which the Postmaster has displayed his usual good judgment and desire to afford the public the best possible accommodation. The Reading Room, which has dropped its party character, comes next, and as before the fire, so is it now, one of the best News Rooms in the Union. The last is tenanted as a Hair Dressing Saloon.

By next Spring, Main and several other streets, will be in "apple pie order," when we hope immediate and active measures will be taken to establish one or more Factories here.

Nov. 14, 1846

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Mr. Editor:

In making up my list of teachers last week, I inadvertently omitted former teachers of the Coffin School. Its friends may feel slighted if I do not mention the following names: William Coffin, Jr., Hiram B. Dennis, Frederick Vinton, William H. Hewes, — Wood. I do not call to mind given names of latter, who, I think, taught prior to 1846.

Alexander Bunker landlord of sailor boarding house, South Wharf, was white man; Wheeler, who kept another house at head of South Wharf, was colored.

The following persons assumed the title of Doctor: Elisha Pease, Federal street; Job Sweet, Orange street; John Buck, Main street; George A. Lawrence, Centre street; John Adlington, Chicken Hill; James Ross, Guinea, whose chief medicine was "Apple Peru."

Clergymen, Centre street.—Bodfish, Noble, Morse, Crandall, Coggeshall, Talbot.

Baptist.—O. T. Walker.

Physicians.—C. F. Winslow, — Bell, — Ekel.

Lawyers.—John Whitmore, John Patch.

Dentists.—Ward, Chandler, Metcalf, Tobey, Gilman, Jenks, Abbott, D. G. Hussey, A. G. Coffin.

Music Teachers.—Theo Barker, Mrs. Graves, Charles Brown, Victor Williams, J. Sturtevant, Israel Camp, Irenus Franklin.

Nathaniel Barney was a teacher, Friends' School; James B. Thomson, North High School (private); A. B. Whipple, Town High School; John Boodle (not Boodle), Friends' School.

Josiah Hussey, or "Squire Hussey," was chief police justice many years, during the palmy days of the town, having his office on Bow street, a short thoroughfare running through from Main to Pearl street, parallel to and next below Federal street. No city police court of the present time furnishes more interesting criminal cases than were daily on trial, awaiting squire Hussey's judgment. Whalers constantly arriving from sea, brought desperate characters among their crews, and New York coasters were constantly landing green men, who were to help make up the crews of departing ships.

These requisitions to the population of the town, were a constant source of turbulence, and the constables were continually engaged in quelling disturbances of the peace, and arresting for trial perpetrators of crimes more or less heinous. If ever justice was meted out to a criminal, it was by Squire Hussey in his Bow street court. That section of the town then known as Guinea, was nightly a perfect pandemonium, where were congregated all sorts of evil characters, who, through the livelong night, rendered more desperate by liquor, which was freely sold without molestation by dealers of both sexes, indulged in most disgusting and demoralizing acts, and it was from among the participants in such horrid orgies, that officers of the law gathered their victims for presentation to the impartial squire, at his morning session. The boys were all held in most wholesome restraint, by the certain knowledge that their misdeeds would certainly subject them to an experience before the "squire," which would bring free and merited punishment, were their delinquencies proved against them. Should some of our judges of criminal cases to-day be more severe in assigning penalties to criminals, it may be that crime would be diminished. The examples of Squire Hussey, of Nantucket, and Russell, of Boston, might well be imitated.

Attached is a list of merchant ship-masters which has been handed to me with the request that they also be printed.

Merchant Ship-Masters.—David Baxter, Reuben Baxter, R. R. Bunker, Paul West, Stephen West, Benjamin Worth, Jonathan C. Briggs, Hezekiah Barnard, Coffin Whippey, Charles Gardner, Edmund Gardner, Grafton Gardner, David C. Baxter, David C. Mitchell, Hezekiah Coffin, Rowland Coffin, Henry F. Coffin, David Worth, Griffin Barney, Joshua Coffin, William Mooers, Edward Carey, Thomas Carey, Andrew Brock, George H. Brock, William Plaskett, Jesse Baker, Richard Mitchell, jr., William Cartwright, Eben Hinekey.

Very truly,

OLIVER COBB.

Ms. 1, 1889

When Main Street Sustained Its First Serious Fire May 10, 1836



The blaze is shown consuming Elisha Starbuck's Washington House. Before it was brought under control, the fire had swept through four other dwellings and shops in the vicinity causing damage totalling \$35,000.

"The Great Fire" of June 2, 1838, Cost Nantucket \$100,000.00.

By Edouard A. Stackpole.

Whenever a great conflagration takes place in any community it is generally referred to as "the great fire" of that certain year. Nantucket's "Great Fire" took place one hundred years ago this coming July, known as "the fire of 1846," which devastated the entire business section of the town.

The extensive damage and horror of this "great fire" has so overshadowed others that it has completely hidden the fact that the 1846 fire had two fore-runners—two disasters which swept smaller sections of the town—making three major conflagrations which took place within a ten year period.

The first of these great fires took place in 1836, when a blaze broke out in the dwelling of E. Starbuck, on the corner of Main and Union streets—known as the Washington House. Before the blaze could be brought under control it had swept through four other dwellings and stores in the vicinity, consuming barns and small shops, also, and causing damage to the amount of between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

This had been the worst fire up to that time in the history of the island, and the citizens of the town were determined that the volunteer fire companies, which had done such yeoman service, would never again be called upon to fight such another conflagration as had occurred on May 10, 1836.

But two years and 23 days later—June 2, 1838—there occurred "an awful conflagration," (as the editor of *The Inquirer* so worded it), "by far the most extensive and disastrous ever experienced in this community. It commenced a few minutes past 2:00 in the morning of June 2, and raged with unappeased fury for nearly four hours."

The fire originated in the ropewalk of Joseph James, sparks from a steam-engine starting the blaze in some rope material. The walk was "in the rear of Union street." A strong southwesterly breeze was blowing, which enabled the flames to spread rapidly, not only throughout the length of the ropewalk but into numerous other structures close by which contained considerable quantities of highly combustible materials.

In the words of an eye-witness: "It was truly 'wild-fire.' No sooner had the alarm of the fire-bell sounded in my ear than I sprang to the window, to see in what direction the fire lay. The appearance of a cloud of smoke and fire, as if it were a man's hand, first presented itself; and though with immediate and inexpressible haste I 'girded up my loins,' that I might not be in the rear of my fellow citizens, who were hurrying one and all, with their pails and buckets to the scene of the conflagration, the horizon, ere I could get out of my room, was almost instantly illumined. Like wild-fire the flames had spread throughout the ropewalk, where the fire commenced, removing all hope of saving any part of the premises, which were at least 300 feet long."

Due to the nature of the strong southwesterly breeze, the flames leaped across intervening spaces quickly. The firewards, realizing that something must be done swiftly, tried to forestall the spread of the flames.

Union street—and adjacent property—were regarded beyond possibility of safety, and the order was given to save as much of the moveable furniture as possible. The dwellings and stores were soon thronged with volunteers clearing the rooms.

But the flames, in their extent and height under the high bank, created a back current of hot air, and instead of spreading in the direction anticipated the blaze literally leaped back, firing the candle house of Philip H. Folger, and then creeping to the equally large manufactory of James Athearn.

An immense stock of valuable sperm oil was soon afire. Against this terrifically hot wall of flame, the fire-engines were helpless. To make the situation worse, the heat began to explode the casks and the oil, igniting immediately, began to run like liquid fire, spreading out upon the waters of the harbor, so that the wharves and the sloops and ships were imperiled.

This new danger found the fire-fighters practically helpless to check the growing conflagration. The tide was coming in, the burning oil being swept by it into the property of Matthew Crosby & Son, converting the extensive warehouse with its stock of oil into a raging furnace of white-hot flame.

The entire waterfront section from Old South to Commercial wharf was now afire, and the lower part of the town was in imminent danger of being destroyed. The firewards decided that gunpowder was the last resort and, upon their orders, intermediate houses and shops were blown up. The explosions could be heard all over the island.

At the height of the fire, the smoke and flames rose to a great height, and when oil-created gases exploded into flame amidst the smoke high over the burning buildings, it was like a scene out of Dante's Inferno.

Large quantities of oil floated into and through drains beneath the ropewalk, running into the low and marshy ground at what is now the north and south sides of Coffin street. Much of this oil was afterwards recovered. But the bulk ran into a big ditch, became ignited and did much to spread the flames.

In the meantime, one or two sick people had to be carried out of their houses on litters. The townspeople who were unable to save anything from their burning homes placed their families beyond danger and joined the fire-fighters.

But while the male population was engaged in the strenuous battle with the flames, the women were not idle. They employed themselves in carrying around refreshing drinks, "to enable the men to sustain, as far as they were able, the fatigue and labor to which they were called."

A contemporary fire-fighter reported thus:

over

"Never did I witness so much consideration and sympathy; all seemed to suffer, all felt, as it were, the loss and all were willing to do what they could! And had it not been for these combined and extraordinary efforts, I verily believe the devastation must and would have been incalculably greater."

Nantucket had never before experienced such a scene. No candle-house had ever burned before in its entirety—the business center of the town had suffered only one bad fire previously.

The following day revealed the burned-over area in all its backened bareness. From Union street to the waterfront between Old South and Commercial wharves, not a building was left standing. The ruins were made further unusual by the fact that very little evidence of the cluster of buildings which had stood there remained. Aside from several mounds of bricks, the area was absolutely bare.

When first surveying the ruin and desolation, it was believed that the conflagration had cost the town some \$200,000 loss. But it was later found that two lots of oil—presumed lost in adjoining warehouses which had been partially consumed by the flames—were intact. One lot was valued at \$60,000.

In commenting on the rapid spread of the flames, Editor Samuel Haynes Jenks, of *The Inquirer*, wrote:

"It was only by the most incredible exertions of the fire department and citizens generally that the flames stayed within the bounds of even this spacious area. On this occasion the aid of gunpowder proved to be of material benefit. Four dwelling houses, one store and one work-shop were blown up in order to arrest the progress of the flames. These operations were admirably performed under the direction of George B. Upton, Esquire, without personal injury to a single individual, and doubtless to the effectual preservation of a very compact neighborhood, embracing an immense amount of property."

The following prophecy by an eyewitness is interesting. The fire had been so devastating that it was not believed possible that its duplicate would ever take place—and, yet, only eight years later, an even greater conflagration swept the business section of the town. The contemporary witness wrote:

"Whether the fire originated in accident, neglect, or in any other way, it is not for me to determine—the like I hope will never recur—but witnessing as I did the unwearied efforts of the Fire Department, I must say they afford a reasonable security that with due precaution and with such exertions as they put forth, no fire in Nantucket can ever again become so extensive and alarming."

The candle-house manufactories of Daniel Jones, Philip H. Folger and Valentine Hussey were totally destroyed; the oil establishments of Matthew Crosby and James Athearn were destroyed with immense quantities of oil; the dwellings of Walter Folger, Jr., J. N. Bassett, H. Crocker, T. Morris, S. Dunham, C. R. Gardner, W. Hodges, S. Ames, J. Cushman and J. Crosby were burnt down, as were shops of Gilbert Coffin, J. Meader, R. Rawson, T. Barnard, L. Fisher, together with a twine factory belonging to Reuben Bunker.

The most important losses were sustained by the following: James Athearn, \$46,000; French & Coffin, \$32,000; Matthew Crosby & Son, \$24,000; Daniel Jones & Sons, \$23,000. These represented oil stocks and supplies and buildings.

Joseph James, ropewalk and stock, \$13,500; Valentine Hussey and his brother, oil manufactory, \$10,000; Philip H. Folger, the same, \$8,000; R. Bunker, twine factory, \$2,000.

Dwellings—Harvey Crocker, \$4,000; James N. Bassett, \$3,200; Walter Folger, Jr., \$2,200; widow of Jesse Gardner, \$1,000; S. H. Ames, \$2,500; Henry Swift, \$2,800; William Hodges, \$900; Jesse Crosby, \$650; Thomas Coffin and William Alley, \$900; John Elkins, shop, casks, etc., \$1,800; Chas. F. Gardner, furniture, \$600; Thomas Morris, paints, etc., \$1,750; Leonard Fisher, shop, tools, \$750; William P. Smith, Jabez Cushman, Alexander E. Gardner, Grafton Gardner, Thomas G. Barnard Chas H. Wyer, John G. Thurber and George Gardner lost approximately \$300 in tools and furniture.

Besides these, the following persons experienced damage in various ways in destruction of tools, stock, injury to buildings, fences, and ships: Elisha Smith, owners of ship *American*, C. Mitchell & Co., Henry Coffin, Henry Clapp, George F. Russell, David & A. Macy, Charles Hood, Elisha Starbuck, Wm. M. Andrews, George Clasby, Freeman Parker, John Meader, George Myrick, Jr., Barzillai and Thomas Folger, Jesse Crosby, 2d, Asa Coffin, 2nd, Enoch P. Crosby, owners of the ship *Mary Mitchell*, Albert W. Starbuck, widow of Thaddeus Hussey, J. H. Pease, widow of Philip Wyer, Noah Pool, Samuel Haynes Jenks, Barclay Fanning, Benjamin Coffin.

A special town meeting was called on Saturday evening, June 2, to adopt measures of relief and investigate the cause of the fire. James Mitchell, Esq., was chosen moderator.

A committee composed of Barker Burnell, Charles Bunker, George B. Upton, Obed B. Swain and Aaron Mitchell was chosen to investigate the cause of the fire. Two of the important questions put to the committee were: "To inquire whether the watch was vigilant during the night," and "To inquire whether the place where the fire originated was dangerous on account of fire."

One of the important resolutions adopted was that a committee of 20 citizens be chosen to receive collections "here and abroad" and to disburse the same according to its best judgment.

This committee was made up of the following: Aaron Mitchell, Charles G. Coffin, David Joy, George B. Upton, George C. Gardner, Charles Bunker, John H. Shaw, Barker Burnell, James Mitchell, Frederick C. Macy, Edward M. Gardner, Joseph Starbuck, Obed B. Swain, Nathaniel Barney, Thomas Macy, Richard Mitchell, Peter Macy, Charles Mitchell, Charles P. Swain, Samuel B. Tuck. To this membership were later added Harrison G. O. Dunham, Roland Hussey, Peter Folger, Newell Sturdevant, Simon Parkhurst, Henry Swift, Matthew Starbuck, John W. Barrett, Thomas Coffin and George Cobb.

A vote taken at this meeting, which is of particular interest today, is as follows:

"That said Committee be requested to take into consideration the propriety of limiting the height of wooden buildings, either by Ordinance of the Town or otherwise; and report at an adjournment of this Meeting."

JUNE 1, 1946.

We re-publish by request the list of fires on Nantucket, as compiled for our issue of March 4, 1876, by Mr. Timothy S. Chase.

1736.—Friends' Meeting House, just west of the Elihu Coleman farm house, now owned by the Hosier brothers. Totally consumed. Loss, \$400.
 1759.—Light house on Brant Point.
 1762.—Peter Barnard's house. Loss, \$400.
 1765.—Mill. Loss, \$500.
 1769.—Several buildings on South Wharf. Loss, \$11,000.
 Buildings on Brant Point. Loss, \$1000.
 1774.—Enoch Gardner's barn. Loss, \$100.
 1779.—Two barns. Loss, \$300.
 1782.—Light house at Brant Point. Loss, \$1000.
 1786.—Light house at Great Point. Loss, \$1000.
 Nicholas Meader's house at Sesacacha. Loss, \$100.
 1799.—Isaac Folger's shop. Loss, \$1500.
 1802.—Nathan Beebe's bake house. Loss, \$2000.
 1810.—George Russell's shop. Loss, \$350.
 1811.—Matthew Myrick's rope-walk. Loss, \$3000.
 1812.—Samuel Swain's house at Philip's Run. Loss, \$200.
 Several buildings at South Wharf. Loss, \$6000.
 1814.—George Myrick's farm house. Loss, \$300.
 1816.—Light house at Great Point. Loss, \$500.
 1820.—Jethro Dunham's house on Tuckernuck. Loss, \$400.
 1822.—January 5th.—Building of Daniel Jones.
 November 30th.—Latham Gardner's house.
 1823.—Thomas & Henry Starbuck's shop. Loss, \$100.
 March 15th.—House of Seth Russell.
 November 25th.—Store of Henry Starbuck.
 1825.—May 5th.—House of Edward Clark.
 1827.—House of Jedidah Lawrence, corner of Main and Howard streets, slightly damaged in the basement.
 1828.—December.—Paint shop of Thomas Smith, corner of Water and Cambridge streets, damaged about \$1000.
 1830.—January 30th.—An alarm of fire in the evening, caused by the burning out of a chimney. Mr. William Dunham was instantly killed by being caught between an engine and a post in front of the house now occupied by Mr. George W. Burdick.
 1831.—December.—An alarm of fire caused by the burning out of the chimney of the house of Abijah Gardner.
 1832.—Isaac Coffin's barn on Charter street, totally destroyed. Loss, \$900.
 1833.—May 7th.—The house of Seth Pinkham, at Siasconset, was burned.
 1834.—January 20th.—The store attached to the dwelling house of Mrs. Elizabeth Chase, where the Coffin School house now stands, was badly damaged. Loss to store and goods, about \$1000.
 The carpenter's shop of Mr. John R. Macy, on Ash street, was burned during the summer of the same year. Loss, about \$800.
 1835.—July 28th.—The cooper's shop of Mr. Charles C. Morris, head of Pearl street, was slightly damaged on the roof. Loss, about \$100.
 1836.—January 2d.—The house of James Athearn, Jr., Centre street, was slightly damaged in the basement.
 May 10th.—Washington House, kept by Elisha Starbuck, the house of Francis F. Hussey, the large three story building on the corner of Main and Union streets, and the building of Francis F. Hussey, on Union street, were destroyed; the buildings covering the land east of the store now occupied by Mr. Asa C. Jones to the land of Dr. J. B. King, on Union street. The loss was estimated at \$15,000.
 November 4th.—An alarm of fire from tar barrels burning on Brant Point.
 1837.—March 13th.—The house of N. Ames was slightly injured.
 October 8th.—The house of Edward B. Hussey, Centre street, was totally destroyed.
 December 9th.—The house of Joseph P. Sylvia, on the Hensdale farm, was totally destroyed.
 1838.—June 2d.—A fire broke out about 11 o'clock at night, in the lower end of the rope-walk of Joseph James, situated between Union and Washington streets, totally consuming that building, the candle factories of Daniel Jones, Philip H. Folger, Valentine Hussey, Matthew Crosby, James Athearn, and the dwellings of Harvey Crocker, James N. Bassett, Walter Folger, Jr., Thomas D. Morris, Samuel Dunham, Charles F. Gardner, William Hodges, Samuel Ames, Jabez Cushman, Jesse Crosby, the store of Gilbert Coffin, blacksmith

shops of John Meader, Reuel Rawson, the boatbuilders' shops of Thomas G. Barnard, Leonard Fisher, the twine factory of Reuben R. Bunker, cooper's shop of John Elkins, and in fact everything between Union street and the harbor; a locality which at that time was covered with oil factories and oil sheds. Those who are now living, whose memory reaches back to that night, will never forget the sight of the blazing oil that covered the waters of the harbor south of Commercial wharf; nor the long tiers of iron hoops left standing in the place of the sheds stored with thousands of barrels of oil. So intense was the heat that no charred remains of anything were left; but the whole district was burnt as bare as the shore beach. There were over one hundred sufferers by this fire, and the loss was estimated at from \$150,000 to \$300,000.
 June 25th.—Blacksmith's shop occupied by Richard Swain. Partially destroyed.
 November 21st.—Alarm of fire.
 1839.—March 20th.—Cromwell Barnard's barn, and five other buildings rear of the block on Orange street.
 1840.—January 12th.—James Sandsbury's house at Newtown.
 January 31st.—The shop of Henry Gardner, south part of the town. Slightly injured.
 October 17th.—Dwelling house on Union street. Damage trifling.
 October 19th.—Candle factory of James Athearn, Liberty street. Damaged slightly.
 1841.—January 5th.—Alarm caused by the burning out of a chimney.
 Oct. 12th.—Small building belonging to Mrs. Eunice Lawrence, New Mill street. Total loss.
 1842.—January 29th.—Building in south part of the town called Guinea, occupied as a dance hall. Totally destroyed, but no loss to the community.
 February 7th.—Cooper's shop of Coffin & Gardner, near the head of South wharf. Damage trifling.
 February 22d.—Lawrence & Cobb's dry goods store, where the shop of Thomas B. Paddock now stands. Damage slight.
 1844.—February 21st.—Burning of the Asylum at Quaise. The buildings were totally destroyed, and seven of the inmates perished in the flames.
 April.—The farm house of Charles A. Burgess.
 1846.—July 13th.—About 11 o'clock this evening, commenced what has since been known as the "Great Fire." It originated in the hat store of William H. Geary, where the tailor shop of G. F. Barreau now stands, and spreading up and down, burned all the buildings on the south side of Main street, between Orange street and the Straight and South wharves. Crossing Main street where the Citizens' Room is now located, it spread in all directions, consuming everything east of Centre street between Main and Broad streets, the buildings on the west side of Centre street between the house of Mrs. Upham and Quince street. Crossing Broad street, it burned the fine Episcopal Church, and all the buildings on the north side between that and the harbor, as also all the buildings on the east side of North Water street, as far north as the new cottage of George K. Long, and several houses on the west side. Between three and four hundred buildings were burned, and property to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000 destroyed. Had the efforts to save the Methodist Church proved unavailing, the probability is that the whole northwest section of the town would have been burned.
 July 15th.—An alarm of fire, caused by sparks falling on the roof of a dwelling house on Union street.
 December 12th.—Paint shop of John S. Thomas, on Federal street. Damage about \$1000 to building and stock.
 1847.—January 9th.—An alarm caused by the burning of tar barrels on Brant Point.
 February 19th.—Henry Coffin's barn, Liberty street. Total loss.
 1848.—February 28th.—Burning out of chimneys in Miriam Prince's house, New Dollar Lane.
 March 28th.—House of Thomas C. Hamblen, North shore. Partially destroyed.
 September 7th.—The house of William Hadwen, now occupied by Joseph S. Barney. Damage very slight.
 1849.—May 1st.—Levi Starbuck's barn, Fair street. Damage slight.
 May 2d.—Jonathan Mooers's house, rear of the house of the late James Codd, Orange street. Damage slight.
 May 10th.—Benjamin Ray's house, Pine street. Damage slight. Newbegins house, west of the town. Partially destroyed.
 July 18th.—Mitchell & Coffin's candle factory. Very slight.
 November 24th.—Peleg Macy's building, head of South wharf. Damage small.
 1850.—April 14th.—Barn of Charles H. Dunham, head of Old North wharf. Damage slight.

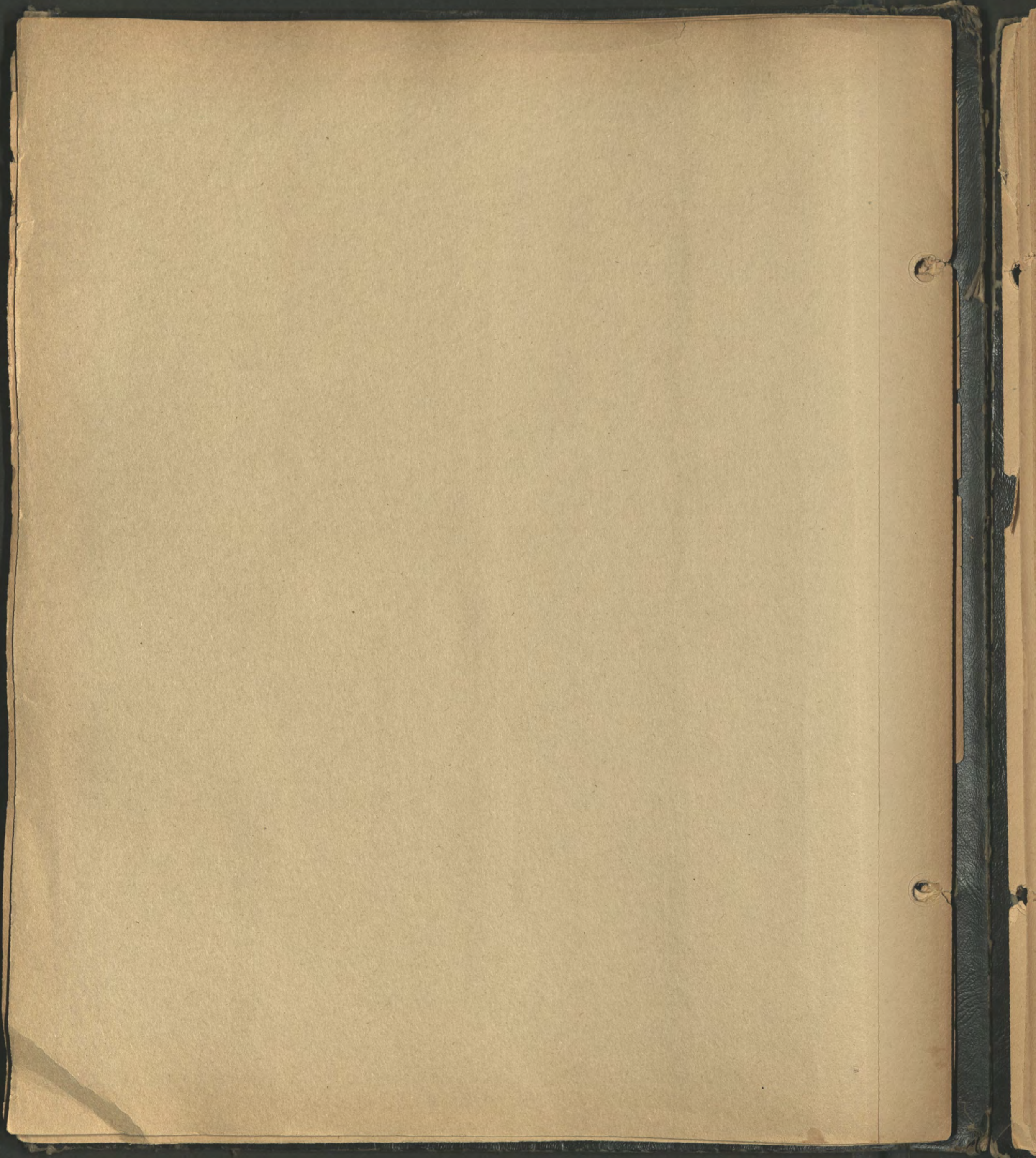
May 14th.—Shed rear of Reuben Meader's house, Orange street.
 May 28th.—House of Zenas Coleman, Pearl street. Damage small.
 June 20th.—Tin shop of Christopher C. Hussey, Federal street. Building and stock damaged by fire and water about \$500.
 1851.—January 25th.—Alarm from burning tar barrels.
 June 3d.—House of Daniel Moulton, head of Pearl street. Slight.
 November 14th.—Cigar store of William M. Russell, Main street, next east of the house now owned by Mrs. Sarah M. Hallett.
 December 4th.—Porch of Dennis Mullen's house, near South beach.
 1852.—July 8th.—West Grammar Schoolhouse, west of the town. Totally destroyed.
 1853.—May 31st.—A barn near the house of Thomas Barnard, 2d, head of Lily street, caused by some small boys setting fire to shavings.
 1854.—July 5th.—Charles Starbuck's barn, Squam. Total loss.
 1855.—May 13th.—Hezekiah Paddock's paint shop, Candle street. Damage about \$1000.
 June 3d.—House of Justin Lawrence, Gay street. Slightly injured.
 September 5th.—Alarm caused by a blacksmith setting tires.
 1856.—February 19th.—Alarm caused by the moon shining in at the windows of the Fair street M. E. Church.
 February 26th.—Frederick Arthur's barn, rear of his house, corner of Orange street and Plumb Lane. Slight damage.
 1858.—October 11th.—Collection of soot taking fire in the chimney of South Grammar Schoolhouse.
 1859.—June 30th.—Dwelling house occupied by George Barrett, head of Main street. Totally consumed.
 July 16th.—Cooper's shop of Freeman Parker. Slight.
 August 23d.—Alarm caused by burning out a chimney.
 September 20th.—Burning of the shoe store of A. D. Towle, Centre Street Block. Store badly damaged, and the goods of George R. Folger, who occupied the adjoining building, greatly injured by smoke.
 October 12th.—Seth Clark house, corner of Union and Flores streets. Totally destroyed.
 October 28th.—Burning of ship Planter, on the railway at Brant Point.
 1860.—February 13th.—False alarm.
 February 17th.—Alarm from burning out of a chimney.
 March 5th.—Incendiary fire in the barn of Isaiah Nickerson. Put out without damage.
 March 9th.—Burning of a small building west of the town. Incendiary.
 March 12th.—David Folger's cooper's shop. Loss between \$3000 and \$4000. Incendiary.
 March 16th.—Burning of John Winn's barn on Grove Lane, west of the town. Incendiary. Totally destroyed.
 April 3d.—Building belonging to Joseph Starbuck. Incendiary. Damage trifling.
 May 17th.—Alarm caused by the burning of some stubble near the Asylum.
 July 29th.—Burning of beach grass, northwest of the town.
 September 25th.—Alarm caused by the ringing of the bell at an unusual hour.
 September 27th.—Burning of the Constant Randall house, west of the town. Incendiary.
 November 1st.—Burning of the barn on the farm of Charles C. Folger, just west of the town. Totally destroyed, together with hay, farming implements, a horse and several cows. Incendiary.
 December 3d.—House of David G. Hussey. Damage slight.
 1861.—May 18th.—Alarm; cause unknown.
 September 29th.—Barn belonging to Shubael Clark, rear of his house on Pearl street. Partially burned.
 December 16th.—Burning out of a chimney.
 1862.—January 31st.—Burning of a barn belonging to Allen Smith, in his lot just south of the town.
 March 25th.—Barn belonging to Wesley Berry, south part of the town.
 September 5th.—Burning of the barns of George Creasy and George Coffin, between York and Dover streets. Totally destroyed.
 September 18th.—House rear of Union street, belonging to John Williams. Totally destroyed.
 October 7th.—Burning of house on New street, belonging to Margaret Lewis. Partially destroyed.
 October 14th.—Alarm from unknown cause.
 1863.—February 6th.—Thomas Coffin's house, corner of Milk and Vestal streets. Damage slight.
 March 14th.—Burning of a house in the south part of the town, occupied by Julia Smith. Totally consumed.

March 18th.—False alarm.
 March 20th.—Partial burning of a building on Broad street, now occupied by Dr. F. A. Ellis.
 March 28th.—Burning of a portion of the Jail. Slight.
 March 29th.—False alarm.
 August 27th.—Alarm. Cause unknown.
 September 5th.—Burning out of a chimney.
 October 17th.—Alarm. Cause unknown.
 1864.—August.—Barn of Henry I. Defriez. Slightly injured.
 1865.—April 9th.—Alarm from burning of stubble west of the town.
 April 10th.—Alarm from burning out of a chimney.
 April 19th.—Burning of beach grass, northwest of the town.
 November 6th.—House belonging to Cyrus Cooper, southwest part of the town. Slightly injured.
 November 12th.—House of Shubael Clark, Pearl street. Badly injured.
 1866.—January 30th.—Alarm of fire, caused by the burning of a bed in William Hussey's house, Quince street.
 March 28th.—Farm house of William T. Swain, on what was known as the Albert C. Folger farm.
 October 24th.—Henry P. Olin's boot and shoe store corner of Main and Orange streets.
 November 9th.—Alarm from burning beds at house of Reuben M. Coffin, Liberty street.
 1867.—October 15th.—Alarm from burning corn stalks on the farm of George C. Gardner.
 November 10th.—Burning of George Clark's stable, with horses and carriages, water mill of Steamboat Company, &c.
 November 16th.—Dwelling house on the farm formerly owned by David Joy Starbuck, in Squam.
 1868.—March 7th.—House of Mr. Paul, at Siasconset. Slightly injured.
 1870.—April 6th.—Try works on Commercial Wharf. Trifling damage.
 April 17th.—Barn of John Winn, Grove Lane. Totally consumed.
 1871.—January 13th.—House of Martin Terry, south part of the town. A total loss.
 July 9th.—Barn on the estate of Uriah Gardner, northwest part of town. Entirely consumed.
 1872.—February 22d.—Building of Benjamin W. Chase, rear of his house on Pearl street.
 April 12th.—Barn of John M. Gardner, rear of his house on Liberty street.
 April 24th.—House corner of Pleasant and Summer streets, occupied by Thomas W. Barrally. Slightly damaged.
 1873.—August 3d.—Shoe factory of Mitchell & Hayden, just west of the town, entirely consumed, together with stock, machinery, &c. Loss estimated at \$18,000.
 1874.—March 7th.—Alarm from bonfire at the head of Miacomet pond.
 August 31st.—Try works of D. W. & R. E. Burgess, at their farm at Shimmoo.
 1875.—January 15th.—Alarm of fire from the North Church Vestry.
 October 2d.—Paul Clisby's barn, at Shimmoo. Total loss.
 1876.—January 16th.—Dwelling house of the late Gilbert Coffin, corner of Main and Winter streets. Damage estimated about \$2000.

FIRE ALARM.—On Friday evening week, as the bell-ringer of the "Old South Church" endeavored to perform his usual task of ringing the 9 o'clock bell, he found that the bell rope had missed connections. Nothing daunted he, lantern in hand, climbed the stairs to the belfry, and attempted to produce the usual sound by striking on the bell. The effort was a dismal failure, and the unusual manner of ringing, coupled with the light in the tower, led people on the street to suppose that a conflagration was in progress somewhere, and the cry of "Fire!" was at once raised, which succeeded in calling out the engines and a large crowd of men and boys. The presence of the light and the striking of the bell being duly explained, the engines were taken back and the crowd dispersed.

May 29, 1880

Nov. 14, 1881



IN YE OLDEN DAYS.

Interesting Data Relative to Nantucket's Fire Department of the Revolutionary Period.

Mr. Charles C. Crosby has always been very much interested in matters appertaining to the Nantucket fire department, with which he was for many years identified as captain of John B. Chace engine, No. 4, and as one of the board of firewards at a later period. He has not lost interest since retiring from the service, and has recently compiled some very interesting historical data from the town records, which have been printed to be presented to John B. Chace Engine Co., to adorn the walls of their new headquarters. He has kindly permitted us to use the matter, which may be followed by a later installment. It is certainly of much historical interest. It recites these facts:

TOWN OF SHERBORNE.

1750—January 30.—Voted that the Town will buy an Engine for 18 pounds sterling to quench fires.

1752—January 18.—Voted the Watch House in Wesco be the place to keep the Engine in. Instead of place it now stands.

Voted that 6 men be chosen to take care of Engine.

Voted that Richard Mitchell, Zaccheus Macy, Paul Bunker, William Coffin, John Coleman Jr and Hezekiah Coffin be the men to take care of the Engine and repair the house fit for the reception of said Engine, and safe keeping of same.

1762—January 9.—Voted that the Town will buy an Enigne to extinguish fires.

Voted that a committee be chosen to buy another Engine, and Joseph Rotch and the Selectmen of the Town be a committee to have charge of procuring another Engine, of a larger size than that we have got for the use of the Town.

1768—January 9.—Voted that an addition be made to the house where the Engine is now kept, so as to be capacious enough to hold the new one lately come to the Island.

Voted that Barzilla Folger, James Coffin and Hezekiah Coffin be a committee to see that an addition be made to said house, and to provide Grapple for the same and to carry the whole affair into execution.

Voted that the committee already appointed to take care of former Engine, be a committee to take care of new one, to keep the same in order, and to try the same once in three months, at least, and to keep the same in repair for the use of Town.

1765—March 4.—Voted that Joseph Jenkins, John Coleman, Richard Mitchell, William Coffin, William Rotch, Obed Hussey Jr, Taber Morton, Jonathan Burnell and Joseph Heath be the men to take care of Engine for this year and that Obed Hussey Jr be made Fireward.

This was the first fireward appointed.

1769—December 22.—Voted the Town now buy another large Engine to extinguish fires for 60 pounds sterling.

Voted that the Selectmen provide 5 dozen leather buckets for use of Town.

First buckets purchased.

Voted to buy 6 Ladders.

First ladders purchased.

Voted that Edward Carey be captain of large Engine, Sheubel Barnard captain of small one.

1770—October 17.—It being put to vote whether the Town will have a watch kept in the Tower it passed in the negative.

1772—March 11.—Voted Captain of large Engine Edward Carey, mate Thomas Jenkins. Captain of second Enigne Reuben Folger mate Joseph Coffin. Captain of small Engine Timothy Coffin mate Stephen Padock.

1787—December 22.—Voted that the Firewards see that the proper apparatus of Ladders and Buckets be kept in the Engine House.

1787—September 17.—Voted that the Town will have a watch in the night from 7 o'clock until morning in relation to prevent disorder in the night, and keep Boys and Servants in order in the streets.

First watch.

1800—November 3.—Voted This Town will hire a man to ring bell that is erected in the Congregational Meeting House in Nantucket, that is at sun rising in the morning, at 12 o'clock in the day, and 9 o'clock in the evening every day in the week except the first day of the week, and at 9 o'clock on first day evening, and at all other times in emergencies.

The first ringing of the bell.

1803—April 8.—Voted that the Town choose a committee to build two Cisterns. Reconsidered and one built.

First cistern.

Voted that Benjamin Walcut, Christopher Mitchell, James Barker be a committee to regulate the placing the Town Engines in different parts of the Town, as they may think best for the benefit of the Town in case of fire, and to make some addition in the fire materials, and place Ladders, and Fire Hooks in such parts of the Town as the Committee shall think suitable.

1820—May—34 Firewards chosen.

1822—December 26.—Voted a committee of three persons to have the superintendency of the fire Engines. Committee Paul West, Aaron Mitchell and Jonathan J. Barney.

First Directors.

1823—June 23.—First Powder House built as near Thomas Brocks dwelling house as may be safe.

1825—January 14.—Voted the Selectmen offer a reward of \$1000 to any person who will discover the villain who posted up or wrote the advertisement threatening to set the Town on fire, so that they may be convicted and brought to punishment.

1825—May 17.—Voted to build a cistern near Congregational Meeting House, and repair old one near South Friends Meeting House.

1827—Voted that the small Engine No. 3 be sent to Quaise by the committee on fire apparatus, with the Engine House.

1830—October 30.—Firemen paid \$8.00 per annum.

First compensation.

1831—November 17.—Voted that the Firewards be authorized to expend two thousand dollars in building Cisterns of such dimensions as they think proper, and to be located in such places, as they deem most prudent.

Voted that the committee on Cisterns be limited not to exceed 800 bbls.

1833—January 19.—Cisterns built on the Square.

March 22.—Voted to see if the Town will appoint a Chief Engineer to have command of the engines at the time of fires.

Notation.—Probably not adopted. A special act of the Legislature was enacted in 1838 establishing the present laws governing the Nantucket Fire Department.

FEBRUARY 28, 1903

The Old Fire Engines.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

Your correspondent "Boston," in your last edition spoke of an engine of the old fire department, called the Volunteer 2, located on York street. I am quite certain that in writing of the location of the apparatus, I referred to her, but for the benefit of your correspondent, I will again locate the department as I remember it:

No. 1 (no name) on Pleasant street, near High; Volunteer No. 2, York street; Active No. 3, in Court off of Orange street of which the house of the late Frederick Gardner marks the north corner; Deluge No. 4, middle house Centre street corner Quince, Nantucket No. 5, burnt in fire of '46; Cataract No. 6, Main street, near Quaker Meeting-house (afterwards straw works); Torrent No. 7, Centre street, opposite Uriah Folger's; Fountain No. 8, Main street near town hall, later Centre street, opposite Methodist church; Ocean No. 9, at that time in Ash street, afterwards in the north house on Centre street, corner Quince; Niagara No. 10, Orange street, opposite Edward Field's; Pioneer No. 11, Liberty street, afterwards Center street with Fountain No. 8; hook and ladders—south house Centre street, corner Quince.

"Boston" speaks of S. S. Salisbury, who kept in the academy prior to Moses Mitchell, of N. A. & A. K. Sprague, and Orison Adams. I turned to my roster of 1905 of the Sons and Daughters of Nantucket and find there the name of Melvin Adams, son of Orison. I met him at the reunion, and had a very pleasant interview with him.

Your correspondent spoke of the old whaling days and the various industries involved in that business. It reminded me of a letter I received last Saturday from Capt. John Lyner, of Talcahuano, Chili, formerly of Nantucket. In speaking of the James Arnold sailing late on account of neglecting to order the things from home, he wrote:

"We have to have all our salt provisions, and canned goods, cordage, and all whaling gear, even to try pots and casks, from home."

Speaking in a personal strain he said: "I use everything Yankee I can get, even to things eatable, and all our bed clothes and underwear come from the mills in New Bedford. We are eating Swift's bacon this winter, but most everything imported here is English, German or French—very few American goods, but for me American goods beat them all!"

He also adds: "All my tobacco, and shoes for wife and self come the same way; we have worn no others for years, for your footwear cannot be beat, nor many other things."

D. Joy Starbuck.

Aug. 9, 1913

The "Bucket Brigade" of 1873.

In March, 1873, the Nantucket Fire Department organized a "Bucket Brigade" to furnish additional fire protection to the town. One hundred men were supplied with two fire buckets each and in case of fire they were supposed to add considerable strength to the fire-fighting equipment which the town possessed. This was forty-seven years ago and in scanning the names of these one hundred men who comprised the "Bucket Brigade," we find that only five of them are living today.

The "Bucket Brigade" did excellent work at the time of the West Grammar School-house fire, August 3, 1873, which many of our readers can doubtless well recall.

Nov. 27, 1920

Nantucket's Fire Department One Hundred Years Ago.

In contrast to the present Fire Department, with its efficient systemized methods, its motorized equipment, and its Association, is the fire-fighting organization of the town one hundred years ago.

In 1834 there was no central fire station. The old methods of combating a blaze prohibited centralization. The authority was vested in a Board of Directors under the Firewards, and the equipment consisted of seven hand-pumping carts, of various capacity, stored in the several sections of the town where, it was deemed by the Firewards, they would be most needed in case of fire.

These hand-pumps were operated by volunteer companies, all residing in the vicinity of the place where the apparatus was stored. These "engines" were the best that could be manufactured at the time, and each company was in charge of responsible citizens.

As to the general location of these hand-pumps, and those in charge, the following will be of interest.

At a meeting of the Firewards of the Town, held at the Town Hall on the evening of March 22, 1834:

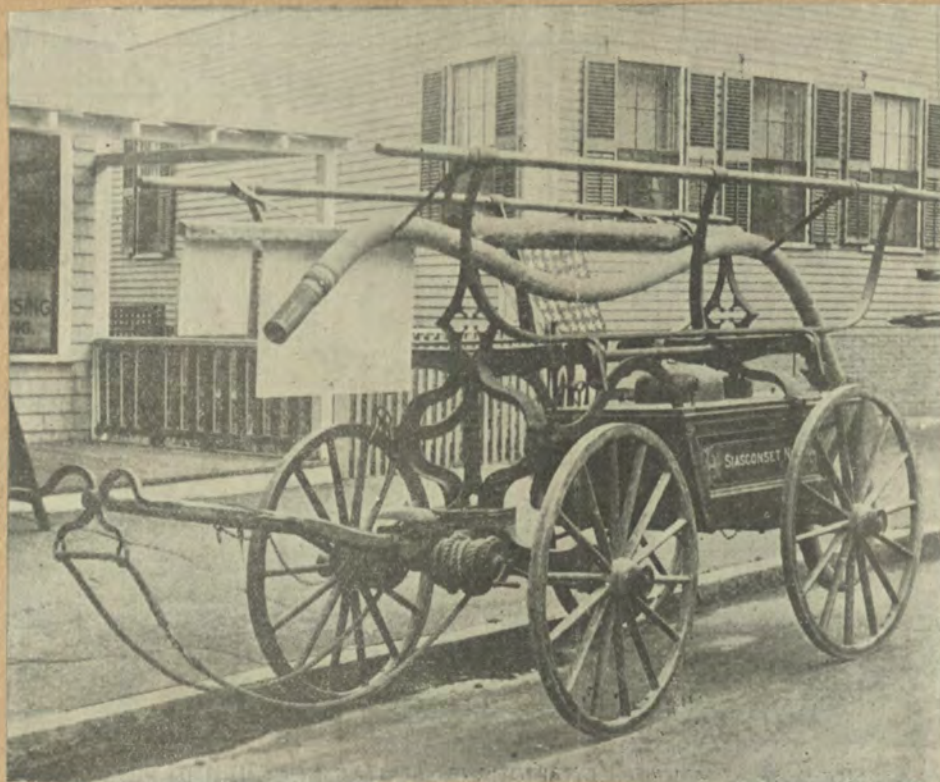
Voted: To assign six of our number to have the care of property in jeopardy during the fire, as follows:

Frederick W. Mitchell, Philip S. Folger, Nathaniel Barney, James Mitchell, Obed B. Swain.

Voted: To assign three of our number to the direction of each engine, classed as follows:

To No. 1 Engine, situated on Pleasant street, north side of Elihu Swain's store: Joseph Starbuck, Thomas Macy, Matthew Myrick.

To No. 2 Engine, situated on Orange street, near Rowland Coleman's store: Christopher Wyer, Reuben Meader, David Worth.



THE OLD HAND FIRE ENGINE WHICH,

ALTHOUGH A CENTURY OLD, CAN STILL PUMP WATER

1950
(Sconset)

To No. 3 Engine, (Active), on Fair street, opposite Isaac Folger's shop: Daniel Jones, Peter Macy, Obed Starbuck.

To No. 4. Engine, (Volunteer) in Coffin's Court, head of Broad street: Peter Chase, Aaron Mitchell, Frederick Hussey.

To No. 5 (Nantucket), on Washington street, near Christopher Mitchell's house: Philip H. Folger, David Thain, Benjamin Worth.

To No. 6 Engine (Cataract), situated in Liberty street, opposite Paul Worth's house: George B. Upton, Frederick C. Macy, Robert M. Coffin.

To No. 7 (new), to be placed in the north part of the town: Samuel B. Tuck, Robert Mitchell, James Macy.

Directors of the Hook and Ladder Companies—Benjamin Gardner, William B. Coffin, Charles G. Coffin.

A. Mitchell, Chairman,
S. B. Tuck, Secretary.

* * * * *

Fire Apparatus.

In Pleasant street, south side of Elihu Swain's store, is one long and one small Ladder.

In Orange street, near Engine-house No. 2, is one long and one small Ladder, one Firehook; the rope and prop in Engine-house.

In Fair street, near Isaac Folger's house, is a set of Ladders on wheels, with two props and one pole for Firehook.

In Coffin's Court, near Engine-house, are one long and one small Ladder and pole to Firehook—the Fire-hook, rope and prop are kept in the Engine-house.

In Liberty street, near Engine-house, are one long Ladder, one Firehook and one prop.

At Commercial Insurance Office are one long Ladder and prop, and several buckets.

At Quaise, near the Asylum, stands an Engine with all its apparatus, well-known as the Little Engine.

* * * * *

An extract from the Fire Law of 1797 followed, which gave the Firewards, Selectmen, or other officers, the authority to direct the demolishing of any structure, house or building for the purpose of preventing the spread of a fire. A fine of ten dollars was the penalty for not obeying an order during a fire.

March 31, 1954

ENGINE JOHN B. CHACE.—Our Providence correspondent sends us the following facts relative to this engine, which will prove interesting. She was built by William Jeffers & Co., of Pawtucket, R. I., in 1858, and weighs 3060 pounds. The hose cart weighs 1250 pounds. The diameter of her cylinder is 9 inches; stroke of piston, 2½ to 7½ inches; length of suction hose, 28 feet. On her first public trial after delivery from the works, she threw a ¾-inch horizontal stream 206 feet, and two streams of the same size 168 feet. At another trial, five years later, she threw a horizontal stream 116 feet, through 1000 feet of hose. These figures are from the records of former clerks of the machine while in Providence, and can be relied upon.

July 13, 1878

FOUNTAIN ENGINE Co. turned out in full numbers on Saturday, in a neat uniform, and accompanied by the Brass Band, proceeded to the foundry of Mr. Benjamin Field, to take possession of their machine, which has recently been put in excellent order. They then proceeded through Union street to Orange, when they were joined by the Pioneer Company, No. 11, and the procession moved to the lower Square, where the engines were tried. The No. 8 worked finely, as also did the No. 11. After putting up their engine, the Fountain Co. proceeded to their hall, and, at 9 o'clock, together with the Directors of the Fire Department, and other invited guests, of whom we had the good fortune to be one, sat down to a most excellent supper prepared by Messrs. Chase & Cook, and we certainly think the members of the Company would have been compelled to chase round some time to have found individuals to cook a better one. After the wants of the inner man had been bountifully supplied, speeches were made, toasts offered, and fine music discoursed by the band, which performed admirably on the occasion. It was pleasant to witness an awakening interest on the part of the company, as manifested by the doings of the evening, and we trust that it may be diffused throughout the entire fire department. The Fountain Company was never in better shape than at present, and the exertions of their efficient foreman to maintain as perfect an organization as possible will doubtless prove successful. The festivities closed about 10 o'clock, with three times three cheers for the new machine, fire director's the foreman, the representative of the press, and others, together with music by the band. So ended a grand time.

Apr. 24, 1860

ACTIVE ENGINE HOUSE AT AUCTION.

ON Wednesday, June 27, at 10 o'clock, in front of Sales Room, the Engine House on Gorham's Court, to be removed from the land within one week from time of sale. Terms cash.

1860

ACTIVE, No. 3.—The firewards have very properly "fixed up," Active Engine, No. 3, and placed her in charge of a fine company of lads, some sixty in number. They were out on Saturday night, for trial, but owing to some defect they were compelled to postpone for a few days. The No. 3's are an active company, and we expect to hear of their doing good service should we be so unfortunate as to have another fire.

Apr. 3, 1860

CATARACT ENGINE, No. 6.—During the past month this fine engine has been put in complete order, and beautifully painted by Mr. Wm. H. Coffin. The color is a light straw, beautifully gilded and ornamented in a style peculiar to the artist who performed the work, and the Cataract presents a fine appearance. The company have spared no expense, and we doubt if a handsomer engine of her class can be found anywhere. They will test her ability on the Square Lower to-morrow evening, and we hope she will perform in accordance with their anticipations. It is pleasing to see this interest on the part of our firemen, although we trust it may be a long day ere their services may be required.

FOUNTAIN ENGINE.—This engine has been undergoing thorough renovation at the foundry of Mr. Benjamin Field; every part having been overhauled, and made as good as new. She passed from the hands of Mr. Field into those of Mr. William H. Coffin, who has ornamented her in his usual good style with a crimson hue, and gilt. We do not scruple to say that a handsomer looking tub than the Fountain, of that class, cannot be found, and her wide awake company may well be proud of so fine a machine. It is expected that she will be out to-morrow night for trial.

Apr. 20, 1860

Fountain Engine Co., No. 8, had a trial of their tub on the Lower Square on Saturday evening. She worked finely, and was playing upon Riddell's building in just one minute from the time she reached the cistern.

1861

A CARD.

THE Members of "DELUCE" Engine Co. No. 4, hereby tender their warmest thanks to the ladies who so kindly furnished them with refreshments at the fire on the night of the 12th inst.

The Company would take this opportunity to state that the insult to one of the Directors of the Fire Department, whom we regarded as one of the most efficient of the board, and who has ever commanded our highest respect, was offered by a person, not a member of the company, who was at work on the engine, and who receives our deepest censure.

REUBEN P. FOLGER, Foreman.
WM. H. PARKER, Clerk.
Nantucket, Mch 20th, 1860—St

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!!!

THE subscriber, Agent for the Mutual Fire Insurance Co., continues to take risks on Dwelling Houses, and also will procure Insurance on Oil, Stocks of all kinds, and Furniture, at 5 different stock offices, not exceeding \$50,000 on any one risk.

4th 27—3d J. B. SWAIN, Agent.

1847

WILL be sold on Saturday April 9th, at 10 o'clock, on the Square, the Torrent Engine House, on Centre Street, the building to be removed from the land one week from the date of the sale. Also a lot of fixtures.

1859

ON Saturday, April 28th at 10 o'clock, in front of Sales Room, the Engine House situated on Upper York Street. The building to be removed from the land, one week from sale.

1860

Fountain Engine Company had another trial of their tub on Saturday evening on the lower Square. In 4 1-2 minutes from the time of leaving her house, she was playing water through about 30 feet of hose.

Mar. 29, 1860

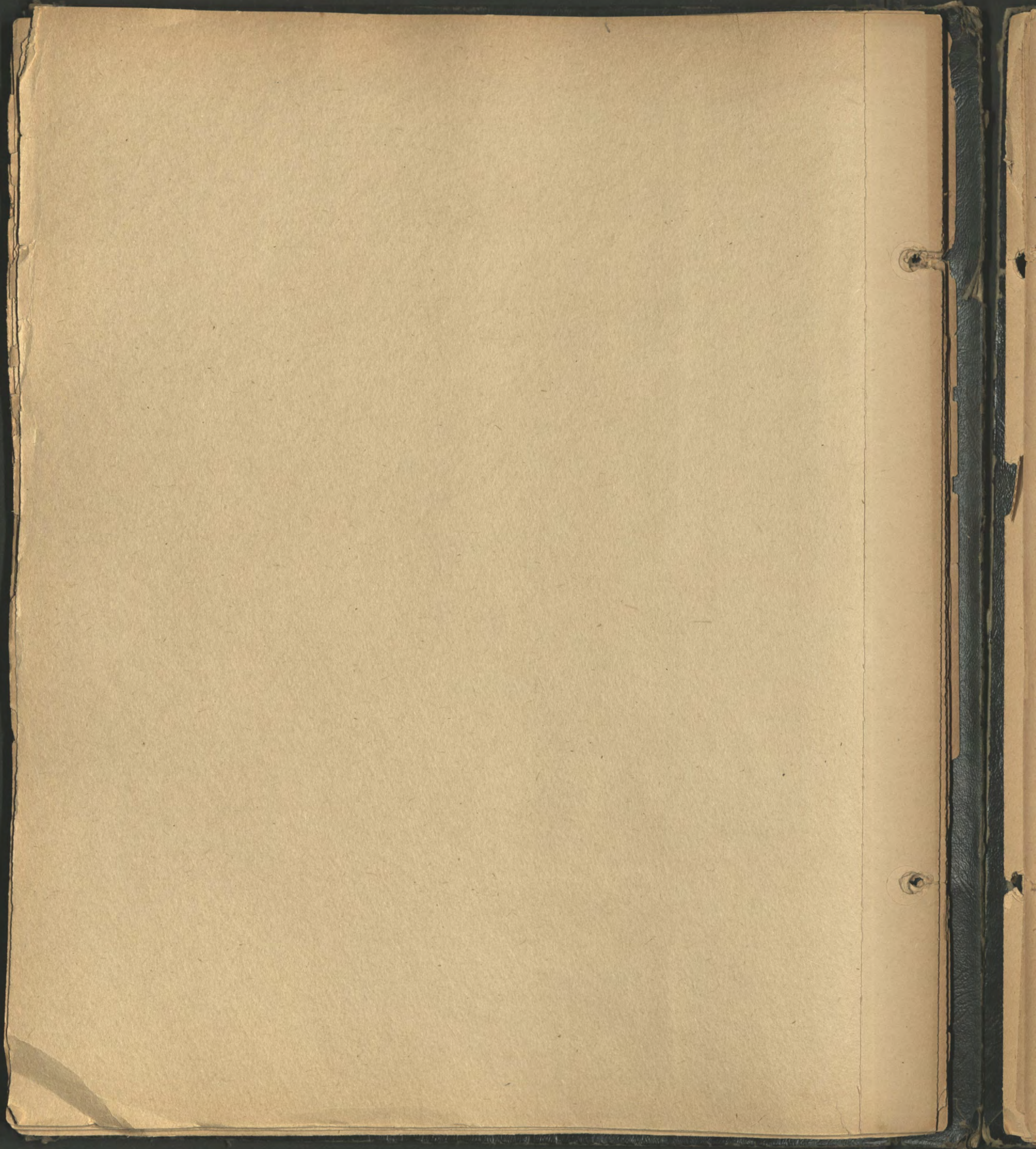
"TORRENT" ENGINE, No. 7.—This Engine has recently been thoroughly overhauled by Mr. Benjamin Field, and beautifully painted by Mess. George K. Long and Benjamin W. Clisby. The groundwork is of a light brown ornamented with gilt and carmine, and the workmanship reflects much credit upon the performers. With the excellent care this tub receives in the hands of Capt. Long she will retain her good looks a long time.—What has become of the old green "Torrent" with "yallar" letters the deponent sayeth not. The 7 has a good, sturdy company, and we are glad they have got a new machine.

July 21, 1861

The engine companies had a merry time on the square, Saturday afternoon. The Deluge and the Fountain had a trial, and lookers on generally say that the Fountain throw water a little higher than her opponent. We think, however, that the Deluge threw the larger column, and it must be considered further, in her favor, that every time she has been out, she has done better than she did the time before. She is no doubt an excellent engine, and will do good service at a fire.

The engines are all in excellent order, and the companies—including the Juvéniles—full, and wide awake. The Fountain looked particularly neat. The favorite, the Cataract, is in Boston undergoing repair.

May 3, 1847



The "Quaise Horror" Occurred
90 Years Ago This Week.

The coming week marks the 90th anniversary of the worst fire, in point of loss of life, that Nantucket ever experienced—the burning of the Town Farm at Quaise.

The great Fire of '46 was undoubtedly the worse catastrophe by fire, so far as property damage is concerned, as this conflagration reduced half the town to ashes and ruin. But there was no loss of life during the blaze, as was the case when the isolated buildings at Quaise were burned on February 21st, 1844, and ten helpless inmates then met a fearful death.

For years after it was known as the "Quaise Horror". Islanders invariably alluded to it when something unusually gruesome was the topic of conversation, and the old people who remembered it, when called upon to tell the story, always shuddered and said: "It was the most awful happening before or since".

The last person who was an eyewitness of the fire was the late Richard W. Burgess, who lived on a farm nearby. Only a lad then, young Burgess was awakened in the "dead of night" by the alarm bell atop the Quaise structure. Other farmers at Polpis were summoned by the alarm, but all arrived too late to save the helpless inmates. By the time the watch in the tower in Nantucket-town sighted the blaze, help by the volunteer companies in the town was out of the question.

In 1822, the town purchased a large tract of land at Quaise for the building there, surrounding it with several other farm buildings, in the area close by Quaise pond, within a few feet of where the branch road to the point runs today.

The town chose Quaise because it was a pleasant and healthy spot, with good farming land, and far enough from town to prevent unreasonable visiting by friends and curiosity seekers. Among the many inmates of the farm were some who had been reduced into the humiliating position of paupers through misfortune, and who did not relish the thoughtless visitors. There were others who had been forced into pauperism by long intemperance, and the town fathers believed Quaise ideally located as to distance between the farm and the rogues-shops in town. Quaise Farm, then, offered a comfortable home for the unfortunates, and a working home for those otherwise needing protective restraint.

In combining the almshouse and own farm, Quaise was a model place for many years, filling a community need, until that fateful night in February, when the dread demon of fire destroyed many years of fruitful endeavor and cast a pall of sadness over the island.

The winter of 1843-44 had been a

severe one. Following an ice embargo, during the first weeks in February, snow fell to some depth, and on the night of the fire the wind was from the northwest, cold and raw.

The catastrophe had its origin in the cook-room, a large kitchen in the lower floor of the two-story main building. Frederick Chase was the first to discover the presence of fire. He was awakened by the pungent smell of smoke. Upon immediate investigation, Chase found the cook-room filled with smoke.

Arousing the keeper, Captain Timothy Bunker, and others, Chase ran for the fire buckets near the cistern. As he ran back by the kitchen, there came a puff of smoke and the windows were blown out.

Mrs. Sarah Bunker, daughter-in-law of the keeper, displayed much presence of mind. The instant she awoke and found the building on fire, she sprang to the bell rope and sounded the alarm, being enveloped in smoke at the time, without full knowledge of the extent of the fire. She rang the bell until the smoke and heat drove her to seek safety.

There were sixty-five inmates in the building at the time. The flames spread so rapidly that the stairways were soon cut off. Lucretia Brackett, one of the inmates, distinguished herself by dragging several of the older and infirm persons to the windows, where ladders were placed.

Captain Bunker and Freeman Atkins, the latter the superintendent of the town, led the rescuers, all of whom had not even time to dress, so sudden was the alarm. The bitter cold and the searing heat caused intense suffering, but more unbearable were the shrieks and screams of the trapped inmates.

The knowledge that many in the flames were crippled and unable to help themselves forced the rescuers to superhuman efforts. Finding their every avenue of escape cut off, many inmates uttered the most terrifying and pitiful screams imaginable. It was many a day before those present could forget the scene—the blazing pile with its human occupants, the bitter wind, the snow-covered ground, the unearthly cries of the doomed.

The farmers from Polpis found they were powerless to aid, but they did help to carry the injured to places of safety from the cold. Due to the heroic efforts of the rescuers all but ten of the sixty-five inmates were saved. Those who perished were as follows: Paul Jenkins, Abial Grew, Jonathan Cathcart, William Holmes, Thomas Hull, William Hutchins, Wealthy Swain, Phebe Jones, Sophia Beebe, Lydia Bowen.

An investigating committee, appointed by the town, composed of E. W. Gardner, Nath. E. Rand, Geo. F. Worth, C. G. Coggeshall, and Job Coleman, reported nothing in the entire investigation which would incriminate anyone. As it had been rumored about the town that some one of the inmates had purposely set the blaze, the report of the committee was received with a measure of relief.

The dreadful circumstance of the fatal blaze, however, led to the establishment of the "asylum" in its present location, where it could be better protected in event of fire.

The victims of the "Quaise horror" were buried close by the scene of their death. The location of the graves is known to comparatively few persons today. It will add much to the history of the locality if the spot is marked. The memory of man is fickle, and in years to come the place may become lost entirely.

Feb. 17, 1934

Disastrous Fire Last Sunday Morning Causes a \$12,000 Loss.

"Island View Farm," one of the largest farm properties on the island of Nantucket, owned by the heirs of the late Capt. William T. Swain, was devastated by fire last Sunday morning, the large barn and the large dwelling house being totally destroyed, together with about sixty tons of hay, numerous wagons, harnesses and farming tools, aggregating a loss estimated at rising \$12,000, upon which there was only \$2,400 insurance—\$1,300 in Brock's agency and \$1,100 in Mooers'.

The fire started in the barn, where the hay had but recently been stored, and it had gained such headway before it was discovered that it was impossible to save the buildings from destruction. The absence of telephonic communication prevented word of the threatening disaster being sent to the central fire station in time for the auto-chemical to check the flames. As it was, the big volume of smoke arising from the blazing barn was noticed in town long before the telephone message was finally received, but it gave the appearance of another fire on the "commons" and it was not until information as to the exact nature of the fire was telephoned to the central station from "Cherry Grove Farm"—a mile distant—that anyone in town knew that the Swain farm property was being destroyed.

The auto-chemical was at once sent out with her crew and she made the run to the farm—a distance of 2½ miles—in a little over six minutes, which was excellent time, considering the deplorable condition of the road. When she arrived her stream was played on the dwelling house, which was standing a hundred feet from the barn and upon which the blazing embers were falling continually. The intense heat arising from the roaring furnace of sixty tons of burning hay, made it apparent that the dwelling was doomed, and as soon as the chemical exhausted her supply she was obliged to move from the scene, leaving the house to its destruction. The chemical had held the fire in check, however, long enough for the entire contents of the house to be removed, but by that time the flames had spread over the surrounding tract of land and the little cottage standing on the knoll 400 feet north was also in danger of destruction.

The lack of water on the premises made it necessary for the chemical to return to town in order to replenish her tanks, and she made a quick trip down to the head of Main street, where the nearest hydrant was placed, returning in time to play her stream on the cottage, around which the burning embers were constantly flying as the larger house went to its doom. A gang of men who had been working on the west roof of the dwelling for some minutes, throwing water taken from a near-by slough-hole wherever a spark ignited the shingles, were by this time compelled to abandon their efforts on account of the extreme heat. Realizing that there was no hope for any of the adjoining buildings, the men then broke into the dairy and succeeded in removing refrigerators and other equipment before the flames reached that point.

It was a thrilling scene, as the house and barn both became a mass of flames, and the intense heat arising from the double fire made it impossible for the crowd of onlookers who had assembled to venture very near. In order to prevent the destruction of the household effects, which a few minutes before had been removed from the house and dumped in promiscuous heaps on the grass, it was necessary to gather the articles up again and transport them to the hill near the cottage. Willing hands assisted in the work, and in spite of the horror of the fire, there were some very amusing and highly interesting scenes enacted.

The fire raged at its fiercest for about two hours, by which time the big barn and the house had both completely disappeared, the big old-fashioned chimney of the latter being the only thing left standing as the flames commenced to die away. A smaller barn which stood some distance to the eastward was not injured, but all of the adjoining sheds, poultry houses and out-buildings were eaten up as the fire progressed.

Fortunately the cattle and horses were out in the fields when the fire broke out, else they would certainly have been destroyed. As it was, a valuable bull which was tied in the main barn, and four calves penned near the east end, were burned. There was considerable difficulty in corralling the fowl which was roaming about the place, "hen instinct" seemingly drawing them towards the fire instead of away from it, but the greater part of the flock of poultry was saved and placed in an improvised coop down in the meadow.

Just as the roof of the house broke into a mass of flames and the live sparks were igniting the adjacent buildings in hundreds of places at once, someone discovered that a dog had a litter of pups in one of the sheds, and a gang of men and boys worked valiantly in order to save the dogs, not securing the last pup until the building under which it had crawled was on fire. The distracted mother dog was with difficulty drawn away from the burning buildings and coaxed to care for her young when they were placed beyond danger, and had it not been for the determined work of the young men in rescuing the dogs they would all have been destroyed.

Altogether the conflagration entailed the greatest property loss that the town of Nantucket has witnessed for many a year, and from the time word of the fire was first received in town it was apparent that the place was doomed, for when the alarm was received the main barn had been burning at least half an hour, and owing to the nature of its contents and the intensity of the heat the first arrivals on the scene realized that human power could not save the dwelling. The response of the chemical was excellent and through her work the contents of the house was saved and the flames kept from the small cottage.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but the general opinion seems to be that it was either a match or a pipe, although the men employed on the farm claim they were not smoking in the barn that morning and that no one had been in it for several hours before the fire broke out. They are of

the opinion that it resulted from overheated hay, but whether a match or a pipe, or spontaneous combustion, was responsible, it entailed a loss of many thousands of dollars, with the complete wiping away of the majority of the buildings on Island View Farm.

Mr. Hewins, the man in charge of the farm, stated to the writer while the fire was still in progress that he was taking his Sunday morning nap in the house and was awakened by a snapping and cracking. He rushed out just in time to see the roof of the barn burst upward with a terrific noise, while the flames mounted high into the air. His son was mowing grass in a distant meadow, and the interior of the barn had probably been burning some minutes before it burst open and anyone on the farm realized the conditions.

Probably the first person on the scene was Elmer F. Baker, who was gathering blueberries over in the swamp to the southward. His attention was attracted by an immense volume of dense black smoke which suddenly burst up into the heavens. It seemed to have been almost instantaneous, but Mr. Baker did not lose any time in rushing to the barn and endeavored to free the bull which he knew was confined there. Just as he was about to break open the door at the rear, a falling timber struck him on the leg and felled him to the



The old-fashioned chimney left standing a mute sentinel on the ruins of the fire.

ground, so that he was obliged to crawl to a place of safety, leaving the bull and the four little calves to their fate.

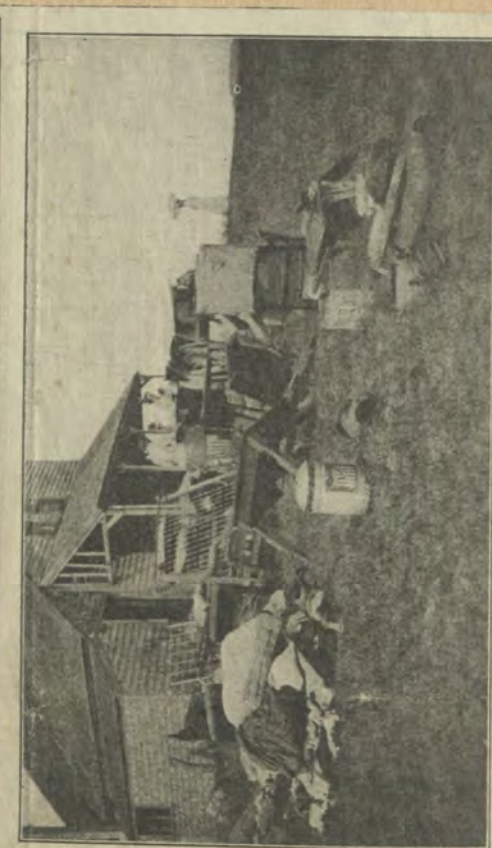
Although the dwelling was wiped out of existence by one o'clock, with the big chimney standing mutely above the hot ashes, it was not until nightfall that the big mass of hay was entirely consumed, necessitating a force of men being kept there to extinguish the live embers which occasionally left the ruins and ignited nearby grass. All the afternoon large crowds of islanders and summer visitors visited the scene of desolation, by foot and team, but only those who were there while the fire was at its height can realize its magnitude.

Lack of telephone connection and the absence of a water supply on the farm was responsible for the extent of the damage, for had the department been notified sooner it possibly might have been able to have saved the

dwelling, in spite of the distance from town, although the absence of water was a great handicap. Had one of the steamers been hauled over the two miles of sand road from town it would have been obliged to have drawn its supply of water from Hummock pond—a quarter of a mile distant—which fact would set aside any arguments that "the steamer might have been used to advantage."

However, the firewards have been subjected to criticism from some quarters because some such move was not made, when it was known that a disastrous fire threatened, but as it would have needed at least four horses to have hauled a heavy steam fire-engine such a great distance, and the use of nearly all the hose the town owns, in order to reach from the pond

to the scene of the fire, the more conservative element feels that for such a step to have been taken would have been injudicious, as it would have removed practically all of the fire-hose and one of the steamers to a point far outside of the town limits and thus left the town proper without means of protection in case an emergency should arise. Under the circumstances doubtless everything feasible was done and, in spite of the extent of the fire and the great loss sustained, it was fortunate that it was no worse. Our people may rest assured that, in dealing with a fire far beyond the town limits, the firewards will never take any step which will leave the town itself unprotected.



The scene about the cottage on the hill, just after the household effects of the Hewins family had been removed from a danger point.

THE INQUIRER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1844.

Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 4 o'clock, P. M.

Heart-rending Occurrence—The Asylum for the Poor Burned to the ground!—TEN of the Inmates consumed in the Flames!!

It is our painful duty to record one of the most distressing occurrences that ever took place upon the Island of Nantucket, and we sincerely pray that we may never be called upon again to note one attended with like consequences.

About 2 o'clock, this morning, a fire broke out in the Asylum for the Poor, some 4 miles from town, and in the course of two hours, the building was burnt to the ground. So rapidly did the fire spread, that those in the house were unable to save any of their effects—and awful to relate, ten of the inmates, were BURNED TO DEATH. One of those burnt (Lydia Bowen,) had carried a child to a place of safety, and returned to try to save something, but did not herself again escape the devouring flames. There were fifty nine persons in the house, besides the family of Capt. Timothy Bunker, the Keeper. Capt. B. lost all his effects and 40 dollars in money. There were 13 of the paupers bed-ridden—one of them we were told, had not walked for about 20 years.

The names of those burned are Paul Jenkins, aged 66; Thomas Hull, 67; Jonathan Cathcart, 79; William Holmes, 51; Wm. Hutchins; Sophia Beebe, aged 57; Phebe Jones, 80; Abial Davis, 87; Lydia Bowen, 33; Wealthy Davis, 53—five men and five women.

This forenoon we visited the scene of destruction, and it was a scene that would have moved a heart of stone. There was a heap of ruins to mark the spot where the late spacious house stood, and every thing denoted ruin and destruction. Many of the paupers were making the best of their way to the house formerly used as an Asylum, which served as a shelter for many of them. Some of them looked bewildered, as though they could scarcely realize their narrow escape. Old and infirm as many of them were, it seems a miracle that so many escaped with their lives. One lad jumped from the third story window, and escaped without injury. Another jumped from the second story window, also without being injured. One man lowered himself to the ground by means of a sheet, which he tore in strips and tied together.

The roads being very bad, and it being apparent that by the time an engine could get there, the house would be consumed, the attempt to drag one thither was not made. Great numbers of our citizens instantly repaired to the scene of action, to render such assistance as was possible. Good service was rendered by those living on the adjacent farms; Mr Charles A. Burgess, in particular, we heard named, as having been the means of saving several lives; straining himself severely in so doing. One of the pauper inmates—a woman, named Phebe Loveliss,—also personally rescued two or three persons, at the imminent risk of her own life.—Mr. Burgess, by means of a ladder, stove in a window of the 3d story, and here found an old man and his wife in bed. He informed them of their danger, and the man got out; but the woman refused to move.—Mr. B. took her out of bed, got her on the ladder, and conveyed her in safety to the ground, she struggling all the while to prevent him from accomplishing his benevolent purpose—this deed of daring.

We saw what remained of the body of Lydia Bowen, burnt to a cinder. Parts of some of the other persons consumed, had also been collected and placed under a shed, previous to interment; forcibly admonishing the beholder, of the uncertainty of the time and the manner, in which he may be called upon to yield up life. Such a sad and sickening sight we never before beheld, and God grant that we may never see another such sight.

The Fire is supposed to have originated in the Cook Room, and was not discovered until the inmates were nearly suffocated.

A meeting of the citizens was called this morning, at 8 o'clock, to adopt such measures as the exigency of the case might require.—The Selectmen and Capt. Job Coleman, the Acting-Overseer of the Poor, last year, were joined with the Overseers of the Poor, to use such measures as they thought proper for the present comfort of the paupers, and also, to report at the adjournment of the meeting on Saturday next, a plan for their future disposition. A Committee of Inquiry respecting the origin of the fire, was also appointed.

The old Asylum is being fitted up and put in comfortable order, for the accommodation of the poor, until some different arrangement is made, if it should be thought expedient to make any other provision for them.

Friday, Feb. 23.

Since the above was in type, we have again visited the Quaise Farm, and found that active preparations were making to provide suitable accommodations for the comfort of those who had been burnt out. The Old house was being put in suitable order for their present use; it remaining for the Town to determine how the poor shall be disposed of hereafter. We have not the least fear that another three-story house will be erected, for the folly of a house on the plan, and of the height, of the one destroyed, is apparent to every man with whom we have conversed, and we presume, to every citizen.—Where land is so plenty, it seems to us to border on madness, to raise a building high into the air. Had the Poor-house been but a story and a half high. Capt. Bunker the Keeper, informed us that those destroyed might have been saved, and we should not have had to mourn their horrid fate. It is true, it would not have made a very imposing appearance, but that is a consideration which should have but little weight, when a place of refuge is being provided for old and decrepid persons; those who through misfortune, or other causes, are dependent upon the Town for support. It is our duty, not only to provide for the comfort of the poor, but also to see that they are not placed in a situation where they run so great a hazard as they did in the house destroyed. Many persons, we doubt not, are residents at Quaise, who when in active life, little thought that they, in their old age, would inhabit a poor-house.—Not an inhabitant of this Island is sure but what it may be his or her lot, to be alike dependent, when they are old and incapable of helping themselves. This thought ought to rise in the breast of every one, when discussing how the poor are to be taken care of. If a new house is to be built, those who have the ordering and management of erecting it, should act as though they were erecting a safe and comfortable retreat for their own old age.—With such feelings actuating them, we should have no fear but what every thing that ought to be, would be done.

The style of the last house was a great error of judgment, and a dreadful disaster has made this fact awfully apparent. We had never visited the Farm since the erection of the New house; but have been told that though of noble appearance, it was a remarkably cold house.—Until recently, there was but a SINGLE stair-way leading to the upper parts of the house, and that beginning aside the cook-room, the most dangerous spot in the building; in our opinion, betokening a woful lack of forethought in those who planned, and also those who erected it. Some time since, we know not how long, a second stair-case was put up, mainly owing, we have been informed, to the exertions and continued representations of Mr Edwd. M. Gardner, seconded by Dr C. F. Winslow. Had it not been for this last-erected stair-way, few, if any, of the inmates would have been saved. The old stair-case was of no use, as the fire cut off that means of escape, in the onset. A three-story house, erected for the poor, and the aged and infirm, with but ONE STAIR-WAY!! It is enough to make one shudder to think of it. Such an oversight will never again occur on this Island.—Of that, we are confident.

In the extra, issued from this office, we stated that Phebe Loveliss rescued two or three persons. That is incorrect. She saved six persons; two at a time; carrying them out by main force. First, she took her father, and mother, one under each arm; a second trip, her sister and another person; and a third trip, two others, dragging them down the stairs, their feet striking on each stair; she made another trip into the house, and had to escape through the window. Such noble conduct is worthy, not only of regard, but also deserving of some suitable reward. Capt. Alexander Macy also did efficient service; entering several chambers, in search of those who were supposed to be in them. Thinking that perhaps some of them might have got off their beds and fallen on the floor, he got down on the floor, upon his stomach, and moved himself over the floor, to make sure that none should be missed by him. Mr. George May, son of Eimeon Macy, also saved five persons, by his own exertions, the particulars attending which we have not been able to learn. Mr. Henry Swain also did great service, and others, whom we cannot now name. Each and all of them deserve the thanks of their fellow citizens; they, no doubt enjoy that holy feeling which grows out of the consciousness of having done a good and humane deed.

The amount of loss is estimated at \$18,000.

The following lines, suggested by the burning of the Poor House, were written by a lad 14 years of age:—

Behold! on yonder rising ground,
A spot of blackened earth,
And half-burned timbers piled around!
Say, does it picture mirth?
Oh, no! in minds that never sighed,
'Twere vain to force a smile
To know that human beings died
Within that smouldering pile.
Yet so it was, ten human souls,
By Death's barb'd arrows slain,
And now, amid the burning coals,
Their bodies still remain.
It was an awful sight to view
These creatures in despair;
Their shrieks each minute fainter grew,
Then all was silent there.

SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION.

The Stable of William H. H. Smith, Steamboat Wharf,
Consumed With its Contents. Twelve Horses Perish
in the Flames.

March 17, 1903.
Shortly after 9 o'clock, Tuesday evening, an alarm of fire was sounded for a blaze in the stable of William H. H. Smith, head of Steamboat wharf. It was some little time before the alarm became general, many mistaking the bell for the curfew.

Fortunately John B. Chace Engine Company was gathered in the new hall for its dedication, and their response was very prompt. And there was a sufficient force on hand to run out the steamer and locate her at a point on Centre street. No. 4 engine located at the hydrant near the Sanford property, and hose carts were stationed at the same hydrant and at that on Federal street, near the Atheneum, and it was but a very short time before powerful streams were playing upon the fire, with the gasoline pumps at the water-works furnishing a full water supply and giving the first test for the improved hydrant service.

It was early apparent that the building was doomed, and all effort was centered in confining the flames to the building where it originated, which was successfully accomplished; and the record Nantucket firemen hold for preventing the spread of a fire beyond the structure in which it started, which has been maintained since the great fire of 1846, was kept good.

It is very probable the fire had been gaining headway rapidly, for the smell of burning hay had been noticed and commented upon by persons on steamboat dock for some time before alarm was sounded, and Edward Barrett, on his way from the wharf, (where he had been tagging freight for shipment the following day,) first saw the fire through the ventilator on top of the building. He rushed to the doors, hoping to free the horses which were uttering awful groans, and kicking and stamping in frantic fear. Unable to gain entrance, Mr. Barrett rushed to Mr. Smith's residence near at hand and with help hurried back, but it was too late to free the wretched animals, (excepting one belonging to E. F. Coffin of 'Sconset), for the whole interior was by this time a roaring furnace, and it would have been foolhardy for one to have attempted an entrance. Twelve horses perished, including one belonging to the Union Store corporation, and the sight of the charred carcasses the next morning was a revolting spectacle, though morbid curiosity carried many to the scene.

The firemen worked with a vigor that caused favorable comment from onlookers, and the fire streams were well directed, else the boathouse of the Underwriters, which adjoins the stable on the west must have been consumed. All the boats and gear from this house were run out for safety. It was remarkable that the stable, in which there was so much inflammable material in the way of hay and dry bedding, should have burned completely in its interior and practically all the roof, and yet the closely adjacent buildings be scarcely scorched.

There were fortunate conditions prevailing. The wind was very light from the west, and fog and light showers during the day and evening had dampened the roofs so that they did not ignite readily, and it is probable credit should in part be given to these conditions for the relief from further disaster.

There was ample time to save things in the office and much equipment in the way of blankets, harnesses, robes, etc., and there were plenty of willing hands to assist.

Mr. Smith was prostrated by his loss, which represented the result of thirty years' toil. He carried no insurance, which makes the conditions the more serious, and was so greatly overcome at the contemplation of the scene that friendly hands conducted him to his home, away from the spot where the awful disaster and destruction existed.

From what can be learned there is no clue to the origin of the fire, nor can anyone be found who knows in what part of the building it started. When Mr. Barrett first discovered it, as above noted, smoke was pouring from the ventilator and on his prompt return after notifying Mr. Smith the structure was aflame. The eastern side of the building seems to have suffered most, judging from the appearance of the roofs, which were largely consumed, while the opposite roofs were but little burned. This resulted from the burning hay, most of which we are told was stored on the eastern side. The last teams to come in were put up about 7.30, and foreman Frank Richrod left the stable about 8 o'clock, at which time everything appeared to be right about the premises, so far as his observation went.

In about an hour after the alarm was given the fire was under control, and the apparatus sent home, two hydrant streams being held in readiness for any fresh outbreak that might occur during the night.

Some anxiety was felt for a time by the steamboat people, as sparks from the burning building were falling on and about the freight house and steamer Nantucket, but the fears proved groundless, though they prepared to meet the case should it prove necessary.

So great is the sympathy expressed for Mr. Smith in the complete obliteration of his plant, which represented his livelihood, that a substantial purse was next day raised, not as an act of charity wholly but as a testimonial in aid of a worthy fellow-man and citizen, whose all had been ruthlessly swept

Residence of Mrs. Wm. Barnes Destroyed by Fire.

One of the most disastrous fires Nantucket has experienced in recent years occurred early Tuesday morning, when the beautiful home of Mrs. William Barnes, Jr., located on Gardner's Court at the rear of the stores on the south side of Main street, was gutted by flames, entailing a loss estimated at rising \$20,000.

The department was called out by an alarm sent in from Box 45, located at the corner of Main and Orange streets, at 2.52 o'clock, and the auto-chemical responded, being on the scene in two minutes, but the interior of the house was a roaring furnace and beyond the power of a chemical stream. The entire department was called out and during the next twenty minutes after the alarm sounded piece after piece of apparatus was brought into service.

Confined within the walls of a modern cement building, with a slate roof, and of what is called fire-proof construction, it required the best efforts of the department (unorganized as it is) to get the flames under control, and it was not until 4.52 o'clock that the "all out" was sounded. In the two hours that had elapsed Chief Norcross, in trying to control the department and make a systematic combat against what was a most serious fire, had been up against the worst situation since he took charge of the fire department. That the flames were confined to the building and did not reach adjoining property was due only to the fact that it was a cement structure and not a wooden building. Situated at the rear of the Main street stores, on a high elevation, it was indeed fortunate for the community that all ended as well as it did.

The fire was first discovered by Mrs. Barnes' butler, who was sleeping in a room in the southwest corner of the building in the basement. He was aroused from his slumbers by a crackling sound, he said, and at first thought someone was in the building. Knowing that Mrs. Barnes was sleeping down in her boat-house that night and that he was alone in the house, he listened carefully, but not hearing the sound again, turned over and went to sleep. A moment later he was aroused again—this time by a louder crackling sound. He jumped out of bed, smelled smoke, and hastened to investigate. Everything was all right about the furnace in the adjoining room, but when he rushed up-stairs to the first floor he found a lively blaze in progress in the hall.

The young man called for help and then secured a pail of water and tried to extinguish the flames, but he was powerless to check them. He worked hard trying to save the property, but realized that he must get help. Had he thought at the moment he discovered the fire, to have rushed out and rang in an alarm it is probable that the department would have been called a half hour earlier than it was. But his first thought was to save his employer's property and he did his best.

Working alone in the burning house, battling with flames and smoke, the young man struggled hard to master the fire, but when he realized that he could not check it he must have "lost his head," for he was unable to relate just what he did after throwing the bucket of water on. He certainly did all he could to save the property and his actions were beyond criticism.

He called loudly for help while within the house and then rushed out doors and called. His cries were heard by Chief of Police Gibbs and Officer Appleton, but it was some time before they could locate him. At first they thought it was the noise of an intoxicated man who had crawled up into Stone Alley, as occasionally happens, but everything was serene there. As the cries continued, however, the police officers rushed around to Orange street. There they determined that the person in distress was at the rear of the Main street block.

A moment later they found the butler, clad only in his under-clothes, hysterical and overcome by exhaustion. Chief Gibbs took charge of the man and Officer Appleton rushed down and rang in the alarm from Box 45, remaining by the box until the auto-chemical arrived. By that time it was seen that the interior of the Barnes house was all afire and the chemical stream was useless. She ran out her hydrant hose, however, but it was some minutes before water could be got onto the fire.

The butler was wrapped up in a blanket and taken to a near-by residence, but it was some time before he could recover his composure. It was at the time impossible to learn from him how the fire started or any of the details of his lone fight against it within the residence. But the next morning he had recovered sufficiently to tell a connected story of his experience, as above outlined.

When the firemen first entered the house the fire was burning its way through the centre of the building from the first floor to the roof, apparently following the "dumb waiter", which furnished an excellent draft. By the time water was available the flames had made their way up through all three floors and it was realized that the house was doomed.

Several hydrant streams were turned on, but the pressure was so split up that they were of little use, and it was not until the No. 4 steamer was in service, pumping from the cistern in front of the Pacific Bank, that water was thrown onto the building to any great extent. The No. 4 stream was a powerful one, however, and she did admirable work, but owing to the cement construction and the heavy glass windows it was difficult to get the streams inside of the house and onto the fire itself.

The engines at the pumping station were in operation within five minutes after the alarm was sounded, the engineers being aroused simultaneously with the striking of the bells and it was not long before 900 gallons of water a minute were being forced into the mains, making 80 pounds pressure. This would have been sufficient for two heavy streams, if properly handled, but when three or four or more were drawn from the hydrants, the pressure was cut down considerably. A lack of systematic handling of the hydrant service by the members of the department was responsible for the fact that more efficient results were not accomplished.

Chief Norcross found the lack of an organized department a great handicap, and at one time he made repeated appeals for men to mount ladders which had been placed against the building, without success. The minutes flew by, and one by one an additional stream of water was brought into service, but none were very effective compared to the No. 4's stream, even though it was slow

in getting onto the fire—owing to the fact that the steamer had to wait fifteen minutes before enough men came to pull her out into the street and up to the cistern a hundred feet distant.

When Chief Norcross realized the seriousness of the fire and was not receiving the support which he needed from members of the department, he ordered a second alarm rung in, so as to call out every available piece of apparatus. But a mix-up resulted. H. Marshall Gardiner, who helped pull the No. 4 steamer out of her house and then tugged with the No. 6 hose carriage, was told by someone (who he thought was in authority) to pull in another alarm from Box 45, in order to get more men to help. Mr. Gardiner did as he was told, and before the superintendent of fire alarm could strike the second alarm—2-2-2, followed by the box number—another round had been struck on the bells from Box 45, but it was not an official "second alarm".

Just how many streams of water were thrown onto the burning house we do not know. Hose came up over the bank from a hydrant on Union street, from hydrants on Orange street, and from the old No. 1 steamer, which was having a hard struggle all by her lonesome, trying her best to throw water down the hill from a hydrant near the junction of Martin's Lane and Orange street. A leaky tube and shortage of coal delayed her work considerably, but Engineer Austin kept her moving as much as possible and she helped her mate—the newer steamer—as much as she could under the circumstances.

The crowd which gathered about the vicinity of the Barnes house packed Gardner's Court, and many were the suggestions offered the Chief and his assistants, but there was a scarcity of volunteers. Those who did make their way into the burning building, however, did excellent work and it was not long before it was realized that the flames would be confined to the Barnes residence, so everybody felt relieved, even though it was slow work reaching the seat of the fire, which was sweeping through room after room on all three floors. The slate roof proved an excellent resistant, although making it difficult to reach the fire from the outside, and it was over an hour after the alarm was struck before the fire was under control.

The entire house was flooded with water, which was pouring out onto the lawn and down over the terraces like a water-fall. Practically everything in the house was ruined, for what was not burned by the fire was damaged by smoke and water, and Mrs. Barnes lost many of her valuable possessions. The residence was the most modern on the island and was rebuilt from the former "Mary Hussey" house a few years ago at great expense. Its construction left the cement frame-work standing after the fire had been extinguished, with a large portion of the roof, but experts claim that there is little left upon which to rebuild, owing to the fact that the water must have damaged the cement almost as much as the flames ate up the wood-work. The loss is estimated at about \$20,000, which was well covered by insurance.

Mrs. Barnes had been entertaining her son, Thurlow Weed Barnes, and family, over the Christmas holidays, and they had taken their departure Monday morning. That night she

thought she would sleep in her boat-house on the end of Commercial wharf, as is her custom occasionally, and it was there she was aroused shortly after three o'clock and informed that it was her beautiful home which was in flames. As soon as possible she hastened to the scene of the fire and directed the saving of some of her personal effects. Naturally, she feels the loss of her home and possessions keenly. There was insurance of \$27,000 on the residence and \$5,000 on the furniture, placed through the agency of Albert G. Brock. The damage to the furniture was only partially covered by the insurance.

The origin of the fire is thought to have been spontaneous combustion among some cloths which had been used in polishing the floors and had been placed in a closet, near the hall and the "dumb waiter". It is certain it was not due to furnace or stove or to imperfect chimney.

Sparks From the Fire.

The No. 4 engine did well.

The Barnes lawns were well watered.

Yes, there is need of system—even in a hen-yard.

Everybody was up bright and early Tuesday morning.

Plainly, the Nantucket Fire Department wants a system.

Where were all of those \$10 men when the Chief was calling for help?

Nobody envied Chief Norcross his job, but everybody was free to offer suggestions.

In spite of its lack of organization, the fire department did very well indeed—considering.

William F. Codd and Misses Olive and Marion Allen served hot coffee to the firemen.

The No. 1 steamer had to shut down to wait for a supply of coal—and then a leaky tube again showed itself.

The No. 7 was the first hose cart to get water on the fire, even if she does live way up on Gardner street.

Among the men who did good work inside of the burning building were Melvin Hardy, John R. Killen, Patrick Robinson, Harold Killen and Louis McGarvey.

H. Marshall Gardiner and Elmer Donovan were struggling hard to get the No. 6 hose cart up Orange street hill, but it was too much for two fellows to do alone and they finally called for help.

Engineer Gardner did a good stunt Tuesday morning. He lives way down on Union street, near Consue, but in fifteen minutes he had dressed and hustled up to the No. 4 engine-house and was onto his job.

Richard Veo was right in his glory, strutting around with a real fireman's helmet on. Richard is a genuine "bug" when it comes to fire and fire apparatus and knows the merits and peculiarities of all styles and makes. makes.

A motor-pump would have got water on the fire at least fifteen minutes sooner than did the No. 4 steamer, which did not get out of her house until 3.07—fifteen minutes after the alarm sounded. But when she got into gear she did nobly.

It was not very pleasant to hear Chief Norcross call out: "I can't get a man to go up on the ladders! I have been trying an hour!" The Chief himself was soaked to the skin, and

near distracted trying to get a disorganized fire department into shape.

"Billy" Blair and Assistant Chief Boyer went into the burning house and gathered Mrs. Barnes' jewels together at her direction. Blair also crawled around in the basement and shut off the gas meter, after the pipes had opened up and gas was escaping into the burning house.

The chemical men did well. When the alarm came in they jumped into their clothes, went down and started the motor, and just as the alarm was starting to ring the third round, the auto-chemical left the house, only fifty-eight seconds having elapsed. Quick work. And a motor-pump crew would have worked just as quickly.

The hydrant service might have been more effective if it had been confined to a single stream of hose instead of to two or three. As it was, there was not much pressure, owing to the elevation and the heavy tax made on the mains by the numerous stretches of hose and the fact that the No. 1 steamer was trying to pump from a hydrant instead of from a near-by cistern.

It was surprising, the number of women who left their warm cots and came out into the chill of the early morning air. Mrs. William Barnes, the owner of the burning property, was as calm and collected as any of them (as one might expect of her), in spite of the fact that her beautiful and expensive home, with all of her personal possessions and trinkets, was going up in flames.

It was not the ladder men who finally mounted the ladders and went aloft. Warren B. Chase and Aquila Cormie, of Hose Cart No. 7, carried the hose up to the attic window on the west side of the house, and Oscar Hamblin and John Moore, of Hose Cart No. 6, mounted a ladder which had been placed on the front and played a stream in through one of the windows in the second story.

William H. Barrett "acknowledges the corn". He did not hear the fire alarm Tuesday morning and, being a member of the department, he felt very badly thereat. But there were lots of other sound sleepers about town and many a man who is usually on deck when anything is going on, strolled down town after the breakfast hour and was surprised to learn that there had been a serious fire right in the centre of the town.

Barn on Fire.

There was an alarm of fire about 10 o'clock Thursday evening and a great commotion down in the south part of the town in consequence. Fire was discovered in the barn of Everett Backus on Cherry street, a man passing by hearing a horse coughing and upon investigation finding the barn full of smoke. The alarm was sounded from Box 48, near the lower end of Orange street, and the whistles on the ice plants joined in arousing the townspeople. The auto-chemical was the first to reach the scene, but her chemical stream could not extinguish the blaze, and four or five hose streams were brought into play.

The old No. 1 steamer, which had been out of commission nearly a year and had recently been repaired, was able to show what she could do upon this occasion and was placed at the cistern on New street, where she pumped water for an hour or so— with steam pressure far from what it should be. But she pumped water, and that was more than she has been able to do for some time.

Several hydrants did good service, however, but the blaze was in the hay and was difficult to reach, so that it was an hour and a half after the alarm struck before the "all out" was sounded.

As to the manner in which the fire was handled, the organization and system manifested, the audience of several hundred people probably have their own opinions. But whatever the system and whatever the organization, the fire was confined to the building and was finally extinguished, so that much to the credit of the department. If all fires on Nantucket will always end as well, and with no more disastrous results, no criticisms can be made.

Early Evening Fire Monday Caused \$4,000 Damage.

About seven o'clock Monday evening, the Nantucket Fire Department responded to an alarm turned in from box 48 at the corner of Orange and Bear Streets. A fire of undetermined origin had broken out in a house belonging to Miss Irene Cash, of Washington, D. C., and Siasconset, and had made rapid headway from the cellar through the partitions and up to the attic by the time the fire engines reached the scene.

The house, unoccupied at the time, was to be the home of Mr. Drew Andrews, the hairdresser, and family and they had made plans to move in by the first of the year. Since they were in the process of fixing it up and were to move some of their furniture in that evening, Mr. Andrews had built a furnace fire Monday afternoon so the house would be warm enough for them to work in.

Mr. Andrews, who has been living on Harbor View Terrace off Lower Orange Street, happened to be driving past the Orange Street house with Mr. James Calvert and noticed a light inside. Upon investigation, they found the cellar filled with smoke and the fire raging in the walls. They immediately turned in the alarm, to which two pumpers and the ladder truck responded.

The members of the fire department, working in sub-freezing temperatures with an accompanying strong wind, did an excellent job of keeping the fire under control and succeeded in extinguishing it about an hour and a half after the alarm had been sounded. Fire damage was confined to the walls, floors and ceilings of the house, although there was considerable resulting damage to the interior of the house from the water turned on the flames.

The damage to the building has been estimated at \$4,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, who is the former Barbara Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brown of Nantucket, were most fortunate in that they had not yet moved in any of their furniture or other belongings. Had this been the case, the loss would have been much more disastrous.

Nov. 1, 1919

Dec. 24, 1955

Jan. 4, 1919

Fire.—Total Destruction of Mitchell & Hayden's Shoe Factory.

At a few minutes before three o'clock on Sunday morning last, the alarm of Fire! roused us from our slumbers, and sent a thrill of fear to the heart of every thoughtful person, who recalled to mind, on the instant, the very dry condition of every inflammable object, and the limited supply of water in our reservoirs. The fire was found to be inside the shoe manufactory of Messrs. Mitchell & Hayden, the building being the same which was for many years owned by the Town, and occupied for educational purposes, and popularly known as the "West-Grammar School House." Before the fire department could make preparations for an attack upon it, the flames had made good headway inside the building; and bursting forth from the roof soon afterwards, made the fact evident to every one that the fate of the noble old structure was sealed. Thenceforth, the attention of the "Bucket Brigade" and of the people generally, including even the ladies, was turned to saving other buildings in the line of the drifting cinders. The burning building, fortunately, occupied a position a little isolated from all others; but it was very large and high, built with heavy timbers, and, with its contents, made an immense volume of flame; from which a perfect stream of cinders and flakes of fire moved before the light air to the North East, over the roofs of the houses in the line of Liberty and Pearl streets, which, from their extreme dryness, were exposed to imminent danger. On the roof of every house and outbuilding, were to be seen groups of people, fighting the fire with buckets of water, and the anxiety was most intense, until the wreck of the factory fell in, soon after daylight, and the worst of the danger was over. In near proximity to the flames were the stables of Mr. David Folger, containing a number of valuable horses; but, fortunately, he was warned in time to get them all away to a place of safety; and his buildings, including his residence, were preserved by being kept constantly drenched with water.

At five o'clock, all was over; the fire well under control; all the threatened buildings safe, thanks to unwearied exertions; but only a small heap of glowing and smoking ruins remained to mark the site of the stately building, where the fire originated. Such a result was plainly inevitable to all, as they arrived on the ground; and we do not believe, that, under the circumstances, a fire could have been managed any better than this was, even with the aid of steam fire-engines or "Babcock extinguishers." The utility and efficiency of the Bucket Brigade was well demonstrated in this instance. Several buildings, at a considerable distance from the principal fire, are known to have caught for the moment, but were saved by vigorous use of water from buckets.

Messrs. Mitchell & Hayden and their employees are those upon whom the serious loss has fallen. There was a considerable amount of stock on hand at the time, a quantity having been received on the very day before the fire; and about 150 cases of shoes were finished and packed, ready for shipment. The boiler, which had been filled with cold water, was saved in good order; but all the valuable machinery in the building was, of course, totally destroyed. The safe was hauled, red-hot, from the flames after the building fell, but was not opened until Tuesday. The books and papers were considerably damaged, both by heat and by water, but are still in perfectly legible condition.

We learn that Messrs. Mitchell & Hayden's loss was \$17,500, on which there was insurance as follows: \$1500 on the building, at the Irving Insurance Co., N. York; \$3,000 in the Germania, and \$3,000 in the Republic Office, New York, on stock; \$2,000 in the First National, Worcester, and \$2,000 on the Royal, Liverpool, on machinery. The break-up of their business is a matter to be regretted by every one as a serious disaster. As worthy, industrious and enterprising young men, they have the sympathy and good word of every one; and we trust that every encouragement, and even substantial aid, if necessary, may be tendered them to induce them to resume their business here among us.

Some thirty to forty workmen have been thrown out of employment by the fire, many of them having also lost tools of considerable value.

Inquirer and Mirror.

NANTUCKET.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1873.

Fire Destroyed Nantucket's Shoe Factory.

It was something of a coincidence that a day or two after we were asked "if shoes were ever made on Nantucket" that we received a letter from Arthur C. Hayden, of Nantucket, (from his temporary abode in Brockton) enclosing a reminiscent article from the Brockton Enterprise in which reference was made to the firm of Mitchell & Hayden, who at one time operated a shoe factory on Nantucket.

Not many of our residents can recall when Nantucket manufactured shoes, as it was sixty years ago. In 1872 the old West Grammar School building (situated west of Gardner street) was sold to Mitchell & Hayden and it was in that building that they started the manufacture of shoes, investing \$10,000 in the project and for a brief period employing forty-five persons.

The concern lasted about a year and during that time manufactured about \$75,000 worth of shoes. On the 3rd of August, 1873, the place caught fire and was totally destroyed, with its contents, entailing a loss of nearly \$18,000 and thus ending the manufacture of shoes on Nantucket.

The "shoe factory fire" was one of the occasions when a fire was fought principally by a "bucket brigade." The fire started inside the building, breaking out shortly before 3.00 o'clock on Sunday morning. It had gained such headway before discovered that it was impossible to do anything towards saving either building or contents.

So the "bucket brigade" became active and many ladies joined forces with the men in their efforts to prevent near-by buildings from igniting. Sparks were scattered upon the roofs of buildings on Liberty and Pearl streets and for a time it looked as though a serious conflagration was threatening Nantucket. People clambered to the roofs and with members of each family passing buckets full of water up through the house from the ground, the roofs were thus kept soaked with water so that when the sparks landed they did not ignite.

For a time it looked as though the adjacent stables of David Folger would be destroyed, but a force of men and boys worked valiantly with their buckets and succeeded in keeping the buildings drenched, so that they were preserved.

The fire raged for two hours, when the shoe factory collapsed. It is interesting to note the comments which the local paper made at that time in relation to the efficiency of the town's fire department:

"We do not believe that, under the circumstances, a fire could have been handled any better than this was, even with the aid of steam fire-engines or Babcock extinguishers. The utility and efficiency of the 'bucket brigade' was well demonstrated in this instance. Several buildings, at a considerable distance from the principal fire, are known to have caught fire for the moment, but were saved by vigorous use of water from the buckets."

Messrs. Mitchell & Hayden and their employees are those upon whom the serious loss has fallen. There was a considerable amount of stock on hand at the time, a quantity of leather having been received the very day before the fire; and about 150 cases of shoes were finished and packed, ready for shipment. The boiler, which had been filled with cold water, was saved in good order; but all the valuable machinery in the building was totally destroyed. The safe was hauled, red hot, from the flames after the building fell, but it could not be opened for three days."

The article which Arthur Hayden sent down, re-written from that which appeared in the Brockton Enterprise, is as follows:

My goodness gracious and sakes alive! What a periodic jump I am making today. I believe that last week we parted somewhere in the vicinity of Montello and Crescent streets. Today we find ourselves away back in 1878 on a morning early in November, staring at a sign on the facade of a wooden shoe factory in the north end of Montello, then known, depot and all, as Huntington Heights. We still have a Huntington street, and doubtless the street and locality names were of common origin and not unremotely related to the name of a good old dominie of the Porter Congregational church, for those were the good old days when pastors of whatever denomination bore the respect and good-will of the entire community. A selectman of those times (we didn't have mayors then) would ponder long and deeply before he would say anything or do anything that would set any minister against him.

The sign we are staring at on that cold November morning reads "G. W. Hayden and Son," whereas only the morning before it read simply G. W. Hayden Company." What's the answer? Well, the answer is Wallace E. Hayden, at present resident at the Hotel Belmont. Wallace Hayden is probably the only man born in North Bridgewater or anywhere else for that matter, who popped out of the stock's carrying bag a full-fledged shoe manufacturer, for just as soon as all the tiptoeing about the Hayden domicile was over and the Hayden family physician pronounced "it" a boy the joyful senior Hayden took him into partnership at once, and the very next day following the changed sign on the factory proclaimed the blessed news to all who could see and read.

Once the facts were known there was general rejoicing all over, the natives of Nantucket who had crept into our little village taking especial pride in the matter. My stars! You'd think that each and every one of them were Mister and Mistress Hayden their very own selves, with proprietary rights in the new-born child.

You see he was of Nantucket forbears, his mother being Fidelia C. Cash, daughter of Captain William Cash, one of Nantucket's most successful whaling captains, and I believe that long before he reached the baptismal font it was suggested that he be named for every captain courageous who ever strolled along Nantucket's oracular way, the street of captains at home, beloved by many, respected by all.

Orange street with its double row of fine old wooden houses, each and every one of which was surmounted by a fenced in "walk," an institution peculiar to Nantucket and to Nantucket alone, roof altars along the edges of which many a brave female soul waited and watched for her courageous son or husband who never returned. Just how many captains lived on that short street of brave and hardy men at one time I have forgotten, but their name was legion.

Rudyard Kipling could have gotten all and more than he needed for such a book as the "Captain Courageous" right out of Orange street or at a "session" of the captains in the "Captains Room" at the old Custom House. Nor did James B. Connolly have to go to the North Shore to dig up material for his "Out of Gloucester." Oh, those wives and widows of old Nantucket! I remember the handsome old lady who told me that when she first married her captain he would be gone but two or three months. Then perhaps for a year at the most. Then two years, then three to five years.

Every day she would take her spy-glass, mount to the roof and watch for the sails of his ship. Talk about your brave old salts! How about the wives of brave old salts? But those venerable men have all gone—every man of them. And every woman that they loved, until perhaps there is here and there a daughter or granddaughter to do him honor by casting flowers upon the waters or to care for his grave in one of the little Nantucket cemeteries.

At any rate it was of such stock that our hero of to-day sprang, Wallace E. Hayden, now of Hotel Belmont. Not many will remember his father, George W. Hayden, who, was one of the first to encourage William L. Douglas to engage in shoe manufacturing and to afford him necessary money to do so. In fact, Mr. Douglas at that time was a "medicine man," and so advertised in the old North Bridgewater Gazette. He had gotten hold of a wonderful book, so his ads, declared, that he got his great cure-all from a panacea that would relieve all human ailments from specks before the eyes to the worst kind of gout. "Alluring propositions to all prospective agents". And "Only fifty cents per sample bottle."

Mr. Douglas did not stay in this medicine game very long, others whose panaceas were of greater alcoholic strength no doubt driving him out. Mr. Douglas remembered George W. Hayden as a benefactor to his dying day. Mr. Hayden jumped out of the shoe business and Tom Lawson-like attempted to break the stock market, with the usual result, although at one time it was currently reported and undoubtedly true that he stood \$160,000 to the good. A brother of his who is very well remembered by many of the present day was Albert Hayden, shoe manufacturer, Grand Army man, and general all around sport. He, too, endeavored to break the stock market with unhappy results.

Perhaps these last few touches will explain why Wallace Hayden, although born a shoe manufacturer, never actually engaged in the business.

[Note—Perhaps some of the Nantucketers will remember that George W. Hayden manufactured shoes under the firm's name of Hayden and Mitchell at Nantucket, this being a failure due to the distance from the market and seat of supplies. George W. Hayden and Fidelia Cash Hayden were the parents of Arthur C. Hayden of Nantucket.—Ed.]

SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION.

The Stable of William H. H. Smith, Steamboat Wharf, Consumed With its Contents. Twelve Horses Perish in the Flames.

Shortly after 9 o'clock, Tuesday evening, an alarm of fire was sounded for a blaze in the stable of William H. H. Smith, head of Steamboat wharf. It was some little time before the alarm became general, many mistaking the bell for the curfew.

Fortunately John B. Chace Engine Company was gathered in the new hall for its dedication, and their response was very prompt. And there was a sufficient force on hand to run out the steamer and locate her at a point on Centre street. No. 4 engine located at the hydrant near the Sanford property, and hose carts were stationed at the same hydrant and at that on Federal street, near the Atheneum, and it was but a very short time before powerful streams were playing upon the fire, with the gasoline pumps at the water-works furnishing a full water supply and giving the first test for the improved hydrant service.

It was early apparent that the building was doomed, and all effort was centered in confining the flames to the building where it originated, which was successfully accomplished; and the record Nantucket firemen hold for preventing the spread of a fire beyond the structure in which it started, which has been maintained since the great fire of 1846, was kept good.

It is very probable the fire had been gaining headway rapidly, for the smell of burning hay had been noticed and commented upon by persons on steamboat dock for some time before alarm was sounded, and Edward Barrett, on his way from the wharf, (where he had been tagging freight for shipment the following day,) first saw the fire through the ventilator on top of the building. He rushed to the doors, hoping to free the horses which were uttering awful groans, and kicking and stamping in frantic fear. Unable to gain entrance, Mr. Barrett rushed to Mr. Smith's residence near at hand and with help hurried back, but it was too late to free the wretched animals, (excepting one belonging to E. F. Coffin of 'Sconset), for the whole interior was by this time a roaring furnace, and it would have been foolhardy for one to have attempted an entrance. Twelve horses perished, including one belonging to the Union Store corporation, and the sight of the charred carcasses the next morning was a revolting spectacle, though morbid curiosity carried many to the scene.

The firemen worked with a vigor that caused favorable comment from onlookers, and the fire streams were well directed, else the boathouse of the Underwriters, which adjoins the stable on the west must have been consumed. All the boats and gear from this house were run out for safety. It was remarkable that the stable, in which there was so much inflammable material in the way of hay and dry bedding, should have burned completely in its interior and practically all the roof, and yet the closely adjacent buildings be scarcely scorched.

There were fortunate conditions prevailing. The wind was very light from the west, and fog and light showers during the day and evening had dampened the roofs so that they did not ignite readily, and it is probable credit should in part be given to these conditions for the relief from further disaster.

There was ample time to save things in the office and much equipment in the way of blankets, harnesses, robes, etc., and there were plenty of willing hands to assist.

Mr. Smith was prostrated by his loss, which represented the result of thirty years' toil. He carried no insurance, which makes the conditions the more serious, and was so greatly overcome at the contemplation of the scene that friendly hands conducted him to his home, away from the spot where the awful disaster and destruction existed.

From what can be learned there is no clue to the origin of the fire, nor can anyone be found who knows in what part of the building it started. When Mr. Barrett first discovered it, as above noted, smoke was pouring from the ventilator and on his prompt return after notifying Mr. Smith the structure was aflame. The eastern side of the building seems to have suffered most, judging from the appearance of the roofs, which were largely consumed, while the opposite roofs were but little burned. This resulted from the burning hay, most of which we are told was stored on the eastern side. The last teams to come in were put up about 7.30, and foreman Frank Richrod left the stable about 8 o'clock, at which time everything appeared to be right about the premises, so far as his observation went.

In about an hour after the alarm was given the fire was under control, and the apparatus sent home, two hydrant streams being held in readiness for any fresh outbreak that might occur during the night.

Some anxiety was felt for a time by the steamboat people, as sparks from the burning building were falling on and about the freight house and steamer Nantucket, but the fears proved groundless, though they prepared to meet the case should it prove necessary.

So great is the sympathy expressed for Mr. Smith in the complete obliteration of his plant, which represented his livelihood, that a substantial purse as next day raised, not as an act of charity wholly but as a testimonial in aid of a worthy fellow-man and citizen, whose all had been ruthlessly swept away. A very general response resulted, and The Inquirer and Mirror is prepared to receive from its non-resident readers any sums they may wish to contribute to the fund to assist Mr. Smith to resume business promptly. The spring work was just starting up, and he had provided well to meet the demand, when the calamity came and swept away his all. The loss is estimated at \$4500, and there was no insurance.



RUINS OF SMITH'S STABLE
The morning after the fire of March 17, 1903, in which eleven horses were burned to death.

Barn and Contents Destroyed By Spectacular Night Fire.

In a spectacular night fire, which broke out shortly after midnight on Thursday, the large barn at the Nantucket Cranberry Co.'s property off the 'Sconset road, was completely destroyed together with most of its contents.

The blaze, the origin of which cannot be determined, was probably smouldering in the loft of the large barn for some time, and is generally attributed to spontaneous combustion.

Two young men, vacationing in 'Sconset, were driving home about 12:30 that evening. As they came over the crest of Bean Hill they sighted red flames spurting from the roof of the barn to their left, some distance off the road. The two young men—Edward Schlesinger and Carl Hiller—drove quickly to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Arthur, which was within 100 feet of the blazing, and awakened the couple.

Mr. Arthur, who is the manager of the large cranberry bog, rushed out, and, realizing at once the hopelessness of combatting the fire, dashed into the barn to save what he could possibly get out. In the meantime, Mrs. Arthur grabbed the telephone to shout to the central operator: "Call the Fire Department!" and gave the location.

About this time, Jerry Towhill, who was driving home to 'Sconset from town, also sighted the blaze and hastened to reach the village and inform Ernest Coffin, Deputy Chief, who immediately summoned the village fire-fighters.

From the Central Station, the number 145 was sounded, followed by another round on the alarm. Two pumpers were dispatched by Chief Cartwright. But these two pumpers and the 'Sconset apparatus could do little but stand by and wet down the surrounding grass, as the flames had gained a tremendous headway.

Mr. Arthur succeeded in driving his beach wagon to safety and getting out one of the power mowers. At the same time, Schlesinger and Hiller managed to get two of the company's trucks out, although they had to push one out by hand.

The flames literally leaped through the big structure, roaring and consuming as they went. Stored materials were soon gone and the building became a mass of seething flames within a few minutes.

In less than an hour, the large barn was completely gutted. Some 18,000 cedar shingles were lost, as well as various insecticides and spraying equipment for the bogs. A quantity of clothing stored in the loft, including a fur coat of Mrs. Arthur's, went up in the flames. An outstanding loss was a new electric generator, valued at \$1,000, which supplied all the light and power for the premises.

The red glare from the fire lighted high up in the sky, and attracted a large number of spectators. Cars were lined up along the State highway for miles in either direction.

Fortunately there was little wind, for if the flames were driven into the surrounding thickets and then spread to the pines, it would have created a fire comparable to the out-of-town fire of 1929, which spread for miles across the commons.

Damage has been estimated at \$2,000 on the building and \$5,000 on the contents.

Weekly Mirror.

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1847.

PERMANENT LOCATION.—The Mirror office is in the building occupied by Capt. F. A. Chase, where all business relating to the paper will be transacted. Entrance on Union street.

Last Saturday, as is well known, engines Nantucket, Fountain and Deluge were out for exercise. A company of juveniles were also out, with a small though ancient engine, which threw a very good stream of water. Later in the day, the Torrent was also out. Our purpose is not to give the opinion of "lookers on" as to which engine worked best or threw water the highest, or the greatest body of water. That is a matter which the spectators, (and they were neither few nor far between) are as well qualified to decide as we are.—The engines worked well, and if each performs equally well and discharges as full columns of water at a fire, there is very little fear of another ruinous conflagration. Praising one company at the expense of another, especially where it is doubtful whether the praise is truly deserved, is not only bad policy, but radically wrong, and productive, of much evil, without the slightest particle of good. Therefore, we wholly eschew that mode of procedure.

Our object in noticing the turnout spoken of, is for the purpose of saying a word respecting the Fire Department. Rivalry, which generates into taunting language, or insulting displays, should not only be frowned down by the citizens at large, but the Directors and Firewards should take such measures as will prevent its recurrence.—To have an efficient Department, the parts must work in harmony together, jealousy and "victory" must be kept out, and the most perfect good feeling must be cultivated between the different companies.—Without such feelings, wrangling, jealousy, bickering, rivalry, and all the ingredients which go to keep up a perpetual turmoil, will be paramount, and make the Department a less efficient safeguard than it otherwise might be. The Department is organized, and a large sum of money annually appropriated by the Town, that we may have a systematic, efficient and well appointed body-guard, to preserve property from destruction by fire. Its leading feature is utility, and not amusement or destructive rivalry; a decent and judicious degree of the latter qualities without doubt would be beneficial, but if they cannot be indulged in without descending to slang, taunting, or unnecessary and undignified displays of gratulation, then good sense and a regard for the security of the town, dictate that such conduct should be carefully avoided. The heads of the Department, those whose duty it is to guide and direct its movements, should have an eye specially to this matter, and on no account suffer ought to be done by any company, which will tend to weaken or create dissensions among them. If any assume to be above such authority, then their connection with the Department should cease without delay. But we have a higher opinion of our citizens, young and old, than to suppose any such result possible, and indite these remarks rather to forewarn them against the indulgence of any acts which might lead to disaffection or ill-nature between the several companies. If they want to try the capacities of their respective engines, do so; and if one discharges more water or throws it higher, so be it. Such things are not worth quarrelling about.

By order of the Firewards, the whole Fire Department was out on Tuesday last, for the purpose of exercising the machines and members. At 2 o'clock the engines were trundled to the stations assigned them, with railroad speed. The north line, composed of the Ocean, Deluge and Torrent, played through 900 feet of hose, a stream of water, in four and half minutes after leaving their houses. The Cataract was ready to operate in two minutes after leaving the house, and formed a line with the Nantucket, which discharged water upon the Chapel in about five minutes after leaving the house. The other line was composed of the Niagara and Fountain, and poured a stream of water upon the same building a few minutes later—one of the latter engines being located at a greater distance from the scene of operations than the others. After a fair trial at that point, a line was formed from the Square, and the Fountain and Deluge discharged streams of water over the vane of the Unitarian Church, which is 110 feet from the ground—a feat which we understand no other engine had ever before performed, beside the Cataract. The Fire Department has evidently improved in efficiency, and deserves to be cherished and countenanced by every good citizen.

About 6 o'clock, some half dozen of the companies formed in procession, in uniform, headed by the New Bedford Citizens' Band, and marched through the principal streets, presenting a very attractive appearance, as was evident from the great numbers who were "out" to see them, and listen to the band. After their tour, (7-1-2 o'clock,) the Firemen and invited guests partook of a capital collation at Pantheon Hall, provided by the capable host of the Ocean House, Mr. R. F. Parker. As soon as the "inner man" was satisfied, the procession re-formed, with lighted torches, and marched through the same streets as before. It was a novel sight to many of our citizens, and doubtless as gratifying as novel.

We conceive the Fire Department now to be in an efficient state; and so far as we can learn, the most perfect harmony prevails in this important body. May it ever continue thus, and may the public not forget that to ensure their efficiency, they must receive public countenance and support in all reasonable matters, instead of harsh condemnation or insulting sneers.

We learn that the Cataract Engine will arrive here on Tuesday next, per railroad and steambot, and that the Company will turn out in uniform to receive her, and test her powers in front of the Ocean House.

Unintentionally last week, we were guilty of an error of omission, in not stating that the Torrent, No. 7, also handsomely discharged a stream of water over the vane of the Unitarian Church.

At a meeting of the Firewards, on Thursday evening last, the following communication was received and acted on.

NANTUCKET, March 15th, 1860.

Gentlemen, Firewards }
of Nantucket, for 1860. }

After some considerable reflection, and believing the insubordinate disposition of some individuals of the fire department, and the disinclination of many citizens to aid in extinguishing fires, and in saving property, can be better rebuked by a resignation of some officer of the Board, I have considered it my duty to tender my resignation as a Director.

My principal reasons, are the apathy of the citizens generally, when called on for aid, and a disobedience by some of the Firemen, to the rules adopted by the Board.

EDWARD M. GARDNER.

The above resignation was accepted with reluctance by the Board, and the undersigned Firewards, having perceived with regret the state of things above alluded to, feel bound to express publicly their sorrow at the unconcern manifested by many at a fire, and also to further express their utter detestation of those few low, and vulgar individuals who seek to insult the most respectable and efficient citizens of the town who are members and officers of the Board of Firewards, by disobedience to their orders during fires or using insulting and low bred language, to or in regard to them at other times.

At a fire the engine companies are fully employed in working their machines, and the saving of property can only be accomplished by the aid of those persons who are not members of the companies. And unless there is more willingness manifested on the part of the citizens to assist, there will be, as there has been, an unnecessary destruction of property.

Again, the engines located at the greatest distance from the fire, find it most difficult to get relief after the members are exhausted, and, when citizens, upon request, agree to leave the vicinity of the fire and go to their aid, and then sneak away as soon as they are out of sight of the Fireward, and not furnish the assistance promised, it shows a meanness and disregard for duty, that is not only highly culpable, but extremely dangerous.

The presence of liquor, and the using of it during a fire, we consider highly reprehensible, and shall feel it our duty to strike from the roll of any engine, such members as make a misuse of it while employed at a fire.

In fine, we wish to repeat what all must know, that a fire in a wooden town is a serious matter, and without soberness, and exertion, and coolness, and obedience, on the part of both firemen and citizens, we may meet with disasters as terrible as those that have heretofore visited us.

Per order of the Board of Firewards,

SANFORD WILBER,

ANDREW G. HUSSEY,

BENJAMIN FIELD,

Nantucket, Feb 23d. 1860.—2w

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A CARD.

ENGINE CO. No. 8 hereby return their sincere thanks to Co.'s 6 and 7, for their kindness in loaning them their Suction Hose on Wednesday evening.
JAMES F. SWAIN,
Foreman Co. No. 8.

At a meeting of Fountain Engine Co., (No. 8,) held on Saturday evening, Charles H. Coffin was appointed Foreman, in place of George F. Hammond, resigned. Elisha Phinney 1st Assistant, John Gray 2d do.; Timothy S. Chase, Clerk.

In our last we mentioned that the staff belonging to the Fountain Engine Company, on Centre street, was being shortened about seventeen feet. This work was performed, and the staff again erected, when it was found to be defective about three feet above the ground, so much so that it is regarded as unsafe to allow it to remain, and we understand it is to be taken down. The Fountain boys with their wonted enterprise, will doubtless replace the pole, which has bravely withstood the storms of the last ten years.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A CARD.

The Selectmen of Nantucket, gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following, viz:

From Different Religious Societies of Chelsea, by Ruggles Slack,	\$170.43
" Citizens of Auburn, Cayuga Co., N. Y., by David Wright	65.25
" Citizens of Westfield, by Joseph Bailey,	24.00
" Citizens of Newport, by Robert Bayleys, (second remittance,)	86.00
" 3 Religious Societies in Billerica, by Marshall Preston,	40.08
" Different Religious Societies in Dudley, by John Eddy, and A. Adams,	31.00
" Citizens of Springfield, by Joseph Ingraham, (third remittance,)	5.00
" Citizens of Kingston, by Samuel Adams,	436.50
" Persons unknown 1 bundle in Mat, containing Men's Clothing.	
" Persons unknown, by schr. Enterprise, Boston, 1 bundle Men's Clothing, 1 handbox containing Women's do.	
" Citizens of Newport, via Railroad, 1 box containing Bedding and Clothing.	
" Citizens of Sterling, by Samuel Haughton,	81.00
" Citizens of Poughkeepsie, by M. J. Myers,	400.00
" Citizens of Salam, by Joseph S. Carbot, Mayor,	1802.75
" Citizens of Framingham by Thos. Russell, (second remittance,)	16.25
" Citizens of Medford, by Alexander Gregg, Wm. Haskins, and Milton James,	206.22

In our last were two mistakes. One bbl. Flour and a second hand Bedstead, credited to citizens of Newburyport, should have been credited to persons unknown.
For citizens of Ashley, read citizens of Ashby, by Abraham Haskell, \$73.00
a19 CHAS. G. COFFIN, Treasurer.

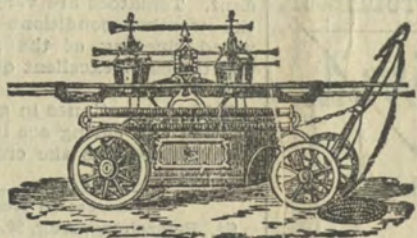
WILL be sold on Saturday April 9th, at 10 o'clock, on the Square, the Torrent Engine House, on Centre Street, the building to be removed from the land one week from the date of the sale. Also a lot of Fixtures.

A HEARTY WELCOME



To New Bedford Veteran Fire-
men's Association,

GUESTS OF JOHN B. CHACE ENGINE
COMPANY NO. 4.



Visiting Company Wins the Cup in
Prize Contest at Fair Grounds.

The Veteran Firemen's Association of New Bedford arrived on the noon boat yesterday, the programme as outlined in our last issue being practically carried out in detail.

Leaving New Bedford in the morning, accompanied by Musical Exchange band, which escorted them from their headquarters to the steamer, the visitors arrived here at noon with their "tub," and were met at the boat by John B. Chace Engine Co. No. 4, (arrayed for the first time in their new uniforms and presenting a most natty appearance,) who accorded them a hearty welcome, and escorted them to their engine house on Centre street, where the visitors temporarily left their engine, and proceeded through Centre street and down Main to No. 4's headquarters on Federal street. Here a short stay was made, after which the visitors, as guests of the local company, proceeded to the Ocean House where a sumptuous dinner was served.

After dinner the two companies "formed" and proceeded with their respective engines to the Fair Grounds where the competitive trial took place at 4 o'clock. This proved one of the most attractive features of the fair and was witnessed by probably the largest throng of spectators present on the grounds for many years.

It was a very pretty exhibition and the enthusiasm of the lookers-on was aroused to the highest pitch. The No. 4 boys labored manfully at the brakes, but as had been anticipated, were overmatched by the visitors who won the prize cup by forcing a horizontal stream 156 feet, some eight feet beyond the point reached by the home company. The achievement of the visitors were heartily applauded and none joined more sincerely in congratulations than their vanquished competitors.

In honor of the visit of the Veteran Firemen's Association the headquarters of Engine Co. No 4 were tastefully decorated with flags and bunting and above the entrance on Federal street was a shield inscribed "Welcome Vets," with an American flag looped beneath. The engine houses of Steamer Nantucket No. 1 and John B. Chace No. 4 were also handsomely decorated and various stores and places of business, including Covil & Pease's stable, the Ocean House, J. W. Brady's tonsorial rooms, Holmes & McCleave's market, James Y. Deacon's store, E. H. Jernegan's, and the "Journal" office. In fact, the whole block in which is No. 4's headquarters was gaily decorated in honor of the occasion.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1898.

At a meeting of the Firewards, on Thursday evening last, the following communication was received and acted on.

NANTUCKET, March 15th, 1860.

Gentlemen, Firewards }
of Nantucket, for 1860. }

After some considerable reflection, and believing the insubordinate disposition of some individuals of the fire department, and the disinclination of many citizens to aid in extinguishing fires, and in saving property, can be better rebuked by a resignation of some officer of the Board, I have considered it my duty to tender my resignation as a Director.

My principle reasons, are the apathy of the citizens generally, when called on for aid, and a disobedience by some of the Firemen, to the rules adopted by the Board.

EDWARD M. GARDNER.

The above resignation was accepted with reluctance by the Board, and the undersigned Firewards, having perceived with regret the state of things above alluded to, feel bound to express publicly their sorrow at the unconcern manifested by many at a fire, and also to further express their utter detestation of those few law, and vulgar individuals who seek to insult the most respectable and efficient citizens of the town who are members and officers of the Board of Firewards, by disobedience to their orders during fires or using insulting and low bred language, to or in regard to them at other times.

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Again the engines located at the greatest distance from the fire, find it most difficult to get relief after the members are exhausted, and, when citizens, upon request, agree to leave the vicinity of the fire and go to their aid, and then sneak away as soon as they are out of sight of the Fireward, and not furnish the assistance promised, it shows a meanness and disregard for duty, that is not only highly culpable, but extremely dangerous.

The presence of liquor, and the using of it during a fire, we consider highly reprehensible, and shall feel it our duty to strike from the roll of any engine, such members as make a misuse of it while employed at a fire.

In fine, we wish to repeat what all must know, that a fire in a wooden town is a serious matter, and without soberness, and exertion, and coolness, and obedience, on the part of both firemen and citizens, we may meet with disasters as terrible as those that have heretofore visited us.

Per order of the Board of Firewards,

SANFORD WILBER.

ANDREW G. HUSSEY.

BENJAMIN FIELD.

Nantucket, Mch 23d. 1860.—2w

} Directors.

FIRE.—A fire broke out on Wednesday morning about 3 o'clock in the house on Union Street commonly known as the "Bowery," and the building was nearly consumed. The houses in the vicinity were in imminent danger, but were saved through the exertions of the fire department, one only being slightly burned. To Pioneer Company, No. 11, great credit is due, as through their exertions the house on the opposite corner was preserved until the arrival of the larger engines.

It was generally noticed that the fire department were unusually slow in getting to the fire. This was owing to the insufficiency of the alarm. Only one man living north of the Orthodox church is known to have been to the fire, consequently the engines were only half manned. Now this is proof positive that a watch is necessary in the North as well as the South tower. It is true that the town must economise in every particular, but limiting the number of watchmen to so small a figure is not economy, and it should be remedied ere we suffer from the effects of so dangerous a system. A town mostly built of wood and as compact as ours, should be closely watched by reliable men, and every means taken to give a general alarm. On Wednesday morning no alarm was given at the North portion of the town and we are credibly informed that but one man living in that section knew of the fire. Let this be remedied.

FIRE.—The community were startled on Monday evening by the dreaded cry of fire! and a lurid flame at the westward, which apparently threatened destruction to the whole town. It proceeded from the cooperage establishment of Mr. David Folger, at the head of Pearl Street, and was doubtless occasioned by lightning. A ball of fire, said by those who saw it descend, to have presented the appearance of a heated cannon ball, was first seen coming from the northwest. It fell as was supposed, farther to the westward, but soon a sheet of flame indicated the precise locality. It was at first thought that the fire was the work of an incendiary, but as it was to the leeward, a heavy rain falling, and the two buildings becoming sheets of flame almost spontaneously, it was conceded to have been occasioned by some powerful agent. The firemen were promptly on the ground, though the distance which the water was led, prevented them from getting water on the fire as soon as was desired. The heavy rain prevented the adjacent buildings from burning, as had it been dry, no power could have saved them. A large quantity of stock was in the building, about fifteen hundred barrels cask, and a quantity of chips and shavings. The building was the property of Mr. George Myrick. Mr. Folger estimates his loss at \$4500. \$1500 insured.

ANOTHER FIRE.—On Friday evening, about half past eight, the town was again alarmed by the cry of fire, which was occasioned by the burning of a barn belonging to Mr. John Winn, in New Lane, near the Gardner Burying Ground. The barn contained about eight tons of hay, and a valuable hay wagon. Loss estimated at about \$500, on which there was no insurance. The fire was the work of an incendiary. A parallel of the late series of incendiary fires is unknown in the history of Nantucket, and certainly demands the most scrutinizing investigation, and that the vile offender should be ferreted out and brought to justice, if possible. It is now generally believed that the shop of Mr. David Folger was fired by an incendiary, and both previous and subsequent circumstances tend to strengthen the belief. When we see the hard earned property of a worthy citizen fired by a miscreant, smouldering in ruins, it becomes every one to do all in his power to detect the criminal. A fire inquest was instituted on Saturday morning, and is being earnestly prosecuted. It is the earnest wish of all that it may be successful, and there is not a shadow of doubt but that the person or persons, if detected, will suffer the extreme penalty of the law, be they who they may.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

\$1000 REWARD.

A REWARD of One Thousand Dollars will be paid by the Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket for information that shall lead to the detection of the person or persons who have caused any incendiary fire or fires by which buildings have been injured in this town at any time within One Year preceding the date of this notice.

Also a Reward of One Hundred Dollars will be paid for information that shall lead to the detection of any person or persons who shall, after the date of this notice, set fire to grass growing on the Commons.

ALFRED MACY,
JOS MITCHELL, 2d
ALEX. MACY,
ELISHA SMITH,
JOSHUA PARKER,
BENJAMIN FIELD,
WM. H. WAITT.

Nantucket, Mch 20th. 1860—1m

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1860.

THE MYSTERY DEVELOPED.—On Tuesday evening last, a large building owned by Joseph Starbuck, Esq., near the residence of Mr. Jared Tracy, on Angola street, was set on fire, but being promptly discovered, no damage was done. Previous circumstances having excited suspicions against a lad named Franklin B. Chase, in the mind of Hon. E. M. Gardner, he sent for Chase to come to his house that evening, and by his own statements as to his whereabouts strengthened the suspicion. It was ascertained that another lad named Henry C. Stackpole was with him that evening. Mr. Gardner, in company with Officer Hamblin, Matthew Starbuck, Esq., and others interested, repaired immediately to Stackpole's residence, who, after being closely questioned confessed that he and Chase fired the building. Notice was immediately given to the Selectmen, and Chase was arrested and lodged in the Tombs for the night. Stackpole was seen in the evening prowling around the premises fired, and was reported to the Selectmen by Mr. George F. Brown.

On Wednesday morning Chase was taken before J. M. Bunker, Esq., and upon the testimony of Stackpole and others was fully committed to answer for the offence.

On the same day Chase confessed to Alfred Macy, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, that he and Stackpole set fire to the cooperage of Mr. David Folger, the barn of John Winn, and the barn of Isaiah Nickerson. Upon complaint of the first two individuals, they were tried at the Town Hall the same afternoon, before J. M. Bunker, Esq., E. M. Gardner appearing for the Commonwealth, and were committed on each indictment to trial at the June Court, and in default of bail in the sum of \$10,000 were committed to jail. Chase also confessed that they looked at several other places to fire on Tuesday evening, but either could not get in or deemed them unsuitable. He states that he set fire to the shop of Christopher C. Hussey, on Sunday evening about two years ago, which was partially destroyed.

On Friday, George H. Sanford was arrested by Officer Hamblin and taken before J. M. Bunker, Esq., on a charge of having fired the building of Mr. Rowland Hinckley, burned recently, and upon the evidence of one Orpins, he was committed to jail for trial in June. Yesterday afternoon, Sanford was again arraigned on a charge of having hired Chase and Stackpole to cause the fires for setting which they are in custody.

Thus the mystery which has hung over these fires is unravelled, and a heavy burden removed from the minds of those who own property upon the island. In lieu of these fires having been caused by some adult person from revenge or a desire to destroy the town, we find that they were caused by some depraved, ignorant youths, for no particular cause, merely, as one remarked, for the "fun of seeing a d—d good fire." Their last attempt, as it proved, was a good thing, leading as it did to their detection, without causing damage. Had it been successful, it would have been hard to picture the result.

The conduct of these fellows in the jail, the sheriff informs us, indicates a depravity truly pitiable, and extreme measures will doubtless have to be resorted to, to bring them to subjection. They are confined in separate cells, and the jail is carefully guarded day and night.

Much credit is due to Hon. E. M. Gardner, Alfred Macy, and others, for their exertions in ferretting out this matter, effected as it was only by prompt action. Chase and Stackpole have been several times before the jury of inquest in regard to the other fires, but had each time been discharged.

It is an old and true saying, that "opposition is the life of business." This was made signally manifest on Monday last. Three of the Fire companies of this town, chartered the steamer Naushon for an excursion to New Bedford, putting the fare at 75 cents—the steamer Telegraph having been refused them for an excursion to another place. The steamer Massachusetts was advertised for the same rate for \$1.—As a matter of course, the probabilities were that the former boat would obtain the greater number of passengers. Matters stood thus throughout Sunday, amidst quite a pretty excitement. That evening, the fare of the Massachusetts was reduced to 25 cents to New Bedford and back. This was new stock to the mill, and the steam rose rapidly. The natural result was, that the Massachusetts had about 830 passengers; the low fare attracting hundreds who would otherwise have remained at home. Thus our citizens had a practical exhibition of the effect of "opposition." In common with other passengers of the Massachusetts, we are indebted to the persons who chartered the Naushon for a pleasant excursion to New Bedford and back, at the low price of 25 cents.

Query—Does not low fare increase the travel?

For the Weekly Mirror.

FIREMEN'S EXCURSION.

The Fire Companies No's 5, 6 and 8, of this place, having failed to procure the Steamboat Telegraph for their excursion on Monday last, were enabled by dint of perseverance on their part, which was met by a liberality worthy of imitation on the part of the managers of the Steamboat Naushon, of Edgartown, to procure that Steamer.

These Fire companies and others to the number perhaps, of 250, left the wharf as by appointment, at 5 A. M., on Monday, in that beautiful steamer Naushon, commanded by Holmes W. Smith, a gentleman in the full sense of the term. Such was Capt. Smith's politeness throughout the entire excursion, that it drew forth one universal expression of satisfaction and praise; and we take pleasure in commending him to all travellers who may sojourn in his wake.

The kindness and liberality of Doctor Fisher of Edgartown, and Mr. Deputy Col. Lector Worth at Holmes Hole, are remembered with grateful feelings; and we would hear remark favorably upon the politeness, ease, and affability of the ladies and gentlemen received on board at the Vineyard and Woodville.

We cannot say too much in praise of Fire Companies No's 1, 5, and 9 of New Bedford, for the kind reception which they gave us. Our thanks are due to the New Bedford Guards, and we were much gratified with the appearance of the Sons of Temperance. In fine, the whole procession would have done honor to cities of older date. We were greatly indebted to Mr. Packard's musical band, and to the New Bedford Brass band.

We left Nantucket with about 250 persons on board, and received at the Vineyard perhaps 225 more, and 60 at Woodville, landing in New Bedford in all about 530.

Nothing occurred to mar our pleasure, either on our passage or at New Bedford, and we left for home between 10 and 11 on Monday evening, and arrived at about 5 on Tuesday morning, in fine spirits, and well satisfied with our excursion, although we were unassisted by the public crier.

Old Nantucket House Destroyed by Fire.

One of the most disastrous fires on Nantucket in recent years occurred on Friday evening week, when the dwelling owned by Hugh MacDougall and located a short distance from the water works road, near the junction with Hinckley lane, was totally destroyed together with its contents.

Situated some distance west of the town limits, the fire gained considerable head-way before it was discovered and by the time the apparatus reached the scene the building was a raging furnace. It was shortly after 10.30 o'clock that the community was aroused by the fire alarm sounding from box 28, followed a few minutes later by the number 123.

The first alarm was sounded by Mrs. Cecil Richrod, who, upon nearing her residence on North Liberty street, noticed the blaze which was lighting up the heavens in the vicinity of the golf links. She immediately rang in the alarm from the nearest box, located near the home of Harold Killen. Almost at the same time the fire had been noticed by Thomas McGrath from his home over on the Hummock Pond road, and McGrath at once telephoned word to the central fire station.

Chief Blair happened to be in his car when the alarm came in and reached the scene ahead of the apparatus. He immediately realized that conditions were serious, so sent in the second alarm. All three pieces of motor apparatus responded and a speedy run was made out over the north road, with the usual trail of private cars following along in the wake of the apparatus.

The building was a roaring furnace by the time the department reached the scene, but it did not take long before water was being poured onto the flames from three hose streams, with an abundant water supply available.

Gradually the water subdued the flames, but the dwelling and its contents were destroyed. The only part of the house left standing was a portion of the east wall and a small section of the side.

Hundreds of people watched the place burning and the department was complimented on the way it handled the situation. An unfortunate accident occurred, however, when Russell Pemberton fell from a ladder as the south side of the building started to collapse. The man landed on his back and as he fell the crowd gasped with horror. His injuries were not serious, however, which was very fortunate indeed. Rushed to the hospital as speedily as possible after he fell, he was treated by Dr. Folger, and given a thorough x-ray examination.

A slight fracture of the lower leg just above the ankle was revealed, but there were no other injuries other than a sprained back and bodily bruises. Pemberton's condition is favorable for an early recovery and he will probably not be incapacitated for any great length of time.

The Firemen's Association has for a number of years been raising a relief fund with which to meet just such emergencies and Pemberton will be taken care of by the Association, both as to medical and hospital care. Those who have assisted the firemen in the creation of their relief fund will now realize its worth.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDougall, who owned the property destroyed, had been at work there during the day preparing it for occupancy the coming season. They were residing in their smaller cottage some distance to the south and were astonished to find the larger house in flames.

The fire undoubtedly started somewhere in the kitchen and spread rapidly all over the house before it was discovered. The flames were under control in about an hour after the apparatus arrived and the "all out" was sounded. About 4.30 in the morning, however, the fire broke out again in the ruins and was noticed by Charles Duce, who lives in the vicinity. He promptly sent in an alarm from 123 and the apparatus was sent up to give the ruins another soaking.

The house and its contents were fully covered by insurance in Brock's agency.

The building destroyed was one of the old-style Nantucket houses. It formerly stood on Fair street, between the Unitarian parsonage and the residence of Miss Brock. Many years ago it was taken down in sections and re-constructed on the hill near the golf links, being owned by the MacDougall and Scott families, and then by the Rev. Edward L. Eustis, subsequently being conducted by Miss Jean Cobb as a tea-room which she called "The 19th Hole." It has been owned by Hugh MacDougall for a number of years, and has been rented during the summer months.

Fire Department Had a Busy Week.

The Nantucket Fire Department has had a busy week, but Nantucket is most fortunate that no one of the fires turned out to be serious. The situation on the island is drastic at the present time, and we are asking everyone to remember the conflagration which took place just three years ago this weekend and be careful—very careful! Put out that cigarette before you toss it away!

Sunday evening the Department was called out for a fire of undetermined origin at a shack belonging to Gilbert Burchell off the Hummock Pond Road.

Tuesday afternoon a blaze broke out in the pines off Crooked Lane, following which a watch was kept throughout the night. The fire broke out again Wednesday evening about eight o'clock and the firemen were again called to the scene. Later on Tuesday a fire was extinguished in the automobile of Sidney W. Thurston.

Tuesday night, about ten o'clock, Box 45 on Orange Street, corner of Main was sounded for a fire in the awning over Cady's Food Shop on Main street.

Thursday afternoon there was another grass fire, this time on Sachem Road.

If the situation remains as serious as it now is, a fire patrol will be started on Monday, to cover the island during the night. In the meantime, remember that no permits are being issued for beach picnic fires, or other fires in the open, and be careful.

Fire!

For the first time since February 25, 1891, the cry of "Fire!" rang out on the stillness of the air yesterday forenoon. The alarm proceeded from the store of John Harps & Co., which was quickly enveloped in a dense cloud of smoke which came up from the basement. The fire department responded promptly, as did also the Wannacomet Water Co., and in five minutes from the time the alarm sounded both had streams of water pouring into the basement.

The efforts of the firemen were first directed at the rear of the block, but failed to reach the fire despite the quantity of water poured in. Dense volumes of smoke poured forth, rendering it impossible to enter the building and for a time a serious conflagration seemed imminent. At length, however, the fire was located in the front end of the basement. Lines of hose were run through the store and down the stairway, likewise through the coal scuttles in the sidewalk, and the flames were soon subdued.

The cause of the fire is not clearly determined. So far as can be learned but two parties, employes of the store, had entered the basement since morning, and both for the purpose of drawing kerosene. Each is positive in his assertion that he left no light. Herbert Bennett lighted a candle when he went down and extinguished it when he left. The other young man named Swan who went down some hours later on a similar errand says he found no light burning there and he lighted none.

The fire occurred in the midst of a lot of empty kerosene barrels, molasses casks and light boxes and if once under good headway would have created serious havoc, while if it had occurred in the night the possible extent of the conflagration is appalling to contemplate.

A short time ago one of the employes set a lighted candle on a box one evening while he drew kerosene, and forgot it and left it there. It burned down and ignited the box. Mr. Harps detected the smell of smoke, ascertained the cause and extinguished the incipient blaze with a bucket of water. It seems rather a careless thing to take a lighted candle into the basement of a store filled with inflammable material for any purpose, more especially to draw kerosene, and this occurrence should be a salutary lesson to all. Fortunately the kerosene barrel from which the oil was burned was about empty. Had it been full, there would undoubtedly have been a disastrous explosion, as it and many others were badly charred.

The woodwork of the basement was burned somewhat, but the flames did not break through at any point. The total damage will come inside of \$100. There is \$2,000 insurance on the store and \$2,500 on stock and fixtures, placed as follows through the agencies of Messrs. David Folger and A. G. Brock: Niagara Insurance Co. of New York, \$2,000; Phoenix Assurance of London, \$1,000; Phoenix Insurance Co. of Brooklyn, \$1,500.

Early Morning Fire Fatally Burns Lone Occupant.

About 1:45 last Saturday morning (March 15) Coast Guardsmen, riding by in a jeep, discovered the small one-story frame house at 156 Orange street ablaze. They immediately aroused Fred Furlong, keeper of "Our Island Home" (which is almost directly across the street) and a call was put through to the fire station. A moment later the lookout at the Brant Point Coast Guard station spied the fire and called the station. Although the apparatus responded at once, by the time they reached the scene the building was already well consumed, with the roof on the point of caving in.

At the time it was not known by the fire fighters that the building housed a tenant. It had been vacant until a few days before the fire. However such knowledge would have been of no value as the woman, Miss Frances Hall, was without doubt asphyxiated long before the blaze was discovered.

A faulty oil burner was apparently the cause of the fire, although District Attorney Maurice M. Lyons has ordered an investigation to verify this finding.

Chief Cartwright said the fire fighters had little trouble keeping the fire from spreading to nearby buildings as they quickly knocked down the burning structure while combating the flames with two hoses.

Miss Hall, employed by the Dry-shoal Cleaners, had returned only a few days previously after a vacation with her parents in Florida. Her body will be returned to her mother, Mrs. Ida Hall, in Tarpon Springs, Florida, for burial.

Material loss was estimated at \$600.

Fire!

For the first time in nearly two years an alarm of fire was sounded in this town, shortly after 2 o'clock Tuesday morning, and the entire fire department promptly responded to the call. The blaze proved to be outside of the town limits, on the west end of the island, presumably at Madaket, and realizing that an attempt to reach it would be useless, the engines were returned to their quarters. It developed later that the fire was a small house on Smith's point, owned by James M. Ramsdell, which was burned to the ground.

Another alarm was rung in just after 1 o'clock Friday morning for a small blaze on the north end of the "Big Shop," on Saratoga street. The fire was put out by neighbors before the apparatus rallied. It was evidently of incendiary origin, and was started about 4 feet from the ground. Burnt matches and pieces of cloth saturated with kerosene were found, lending strong evidence of incendiarism. A neighbor was awakened by the blaze and gave the alarm.

The same morning Mr. Braddock Childs, Hussey street, found his stable doors open and discovered fire smoldering in the floor. The absence of a bundle of excelsior indicates it had been used by an incendiary. No alarm was sounded for this blaze.

Nantucket and New Bedford.

Quite a delegation of our people have been in attendance at the New Bedford celebration this week. Many went last week, but the larger number took advantage of the excursions. The gale of Saturday prevented the sailing of schooner W. P. Boggs, which went out Sunday with about thirty pleasure-seekers. The little steamer Coskata took up a small number of passengers, and cat-boats Margie, Cleopatra and Emily were also included in the New Bedford-bound list. On Monday steamer Marthas Vineyard made an excursion, taking John B. Chace Engine Co. (60 men) and their "machine," besides 120 others. The *Standard* thus describes the welcome extended our firemen:

Upwards of 1000 people were at Steamboat wharf to witness the arrival of steamer Martha's Vineyard with the Nantucket fire company. There was such a large gathering that only the reception committee of the Vets—John I. Bryant, H. B. Almy, Andrew J. Spooner, George M. Crapo, and S. E. Parker—and such members of the Nantucket company who had arrived earlier, were allowed on the pier. The steamer brought besides the fire company 200 excursionists, and before a line had been thrown to the wharf hands the Nantucketers on the pier gave three cheers for the John B. Chace. Fast to the wharf, the reception committee went on board and extended a welcome to Captain Philip L. Holmes and his 60 firemen, who wore white coats, dark pants and blue caps. After the welcome, the hand engine, which was trimmed with bunting and the word Nantucket over the sleeve for the suction, had been rolled onto the wharf, the usual courtesies between the visitors and the local vets were exchanged, when the procession formed on School street, as follows:

John J. Bryant, chairman of reception committee.

George Cram, 6 years old, dressed as Little Mose.

Reiter's band, John Reiter, leader, 23 men.

Reception committee.

New Bedford Veteran Firemen's Association, H. C. Fowler, foreman, 70 men.

Nantucket Fire Co., No. 4, Philip L. Holmes, foreman, 60 men.

Hand engine John B. Chace.

The procession moved through School, Water, Union, Second and William streets, Acushnet avenue, Union, Purchase and High streets, to headquarters, where President Charles P. Maxfield extended to the visitors the hospitality of the rooms.

Tables had been set in the engine room, and hot coffee and a lunch which had been prepared by the local organization was served the visitors.

Arrangements are to be made for the entertainment of the visitors, who are to remain in the city until Wednesday afternoon.

The muster committee of the local organization were in evidence with neat corn color badges printed in silver bearing the following:

Veteran Firemen's Semi-Centennial Field Day,
New Bedford, Mass.,
Oct. 12, 1897.

The veteran firemen's headquarters has been tastefully decorated with bunting, which is festooned from the roof to below the windows in the second story. Over the doors on the front are old fire buckets bearing the inscription General Wolf, 1804, while in the centre of the decorations is the circle which was a fixture on Young Mechanic's flag staff in the days of hand engines. This circle bears the motto of the company—Always Ready.

The Boston *Globe* of Wednesday, in speaking of the payout says:

The payout took place at the north end of the city, in Park sq., and was attended by as many people as could crowd into sight of the engines and hose wagons. The conditions were bad, for the paper was laid into the eye of the heavy southeast wind, and good records were out of the question.

There were 10 companies entered, among them the veterans from the island of Nantucket. The Nantucket company came in for a large share of attention for several reasons. In the first place they had never competed in a payout off the island before. Then they had one man in their number who had never before set foot on the mainland. He is Richard Thurston, aged 42.

Several members of the company spoke with enthusiasm of the pleasures of the day. They do not consider their engine a "has been" by any means. They bought it in Providence some 28 years ago, and it is part of the island's fire apparatus in actual use.

"Our company is pretty well fixed," said they. "We've got 93 members, own our hall and we've got some money. We take care of the living and bury the dead."

The Nantucket machine was built in Pawtucket more than 50 years ago. Its name is John B. Chace, and across the hose support is inscribed "Our duty is our delight."

Fifty bronzed islanders—"fishermen, every one of 'em, and tougher 'an pitch knots," as one spectator put it, manned the brakes of the John B. Chace when their turn came. They wore blue yachting caps and white jackets. How they did "brake her down." Every man of the 50 had all the wind and sinew he needed. Ten men were put "on the upper deck"—an old trick—to work on the brakes with their feet, and with 20 men on each side the play began.

The old machine rocked in its chocks with the first test. There was trouble

in the connection of the hose with the machine, and while it was being fixed the coupling came off, drenching several men. This repaired, the play was resumed. Every man in the Nantucket crew yelled at the top of his voice. The machine trembled.

Three times they tried, getting all out of their old machine that brawn could extract. But there was a stiff wind against them and their tub had its limitations.

The judges at the payout were: At the engines, A. M. Cunningham and John A. Russell; timekeeper, A. B. Roberts; on the pipes, James A. Holmes and Philip A. Brady; on the stream, Edward Morse, James Langford, F. W. Cady, Abner Harlow, Edward A. Rhodes. The result was as follows:

Name of company and maker	Ft	In
Geiser, East Providence, Button.....	161	00
Tekeosnoow, Woonsocket, Button.....	157	00
Fire King, Pawtucket, Smith.....	154	06
New Bedford, New Bedford, Button.....	154	03
Hancock, Acushnet, Agnew.....	152	00
Gulf Stream, Fall River, Button.....	150	06 1/2
Young Mechanic, Mattapoiset, Jeffers.....	146	00
Narragansett, Riverside, Jeffers.....	133	09 1/2
John B. Chace, Nantucket, Jeffers.....	130	09
Hydraulic, Bristol, R. L. Richmond.....	67	08

There were five cash prizes: \$150, \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25.

The Firemen's Levee.

At the meeting of members of Engine Company No. 4 at their head-quarters, last Saturday evening, it was voted unanimously to carry out the suggestion previously entertained of holding a grand ball in Atlantic Hall on the evening of Thursday, the 25th inst., and various committees were chosen to attend to the many duties connected with carrying out the plans.

The levee was held on Thursday evening last, and was a fine success. The Committee of arrangements were Messrs. John A. Coffin, James A. Holmes, John B. Collins and Joseph Johnson, who also acted as floor managers. The hall was beautifully decorated. Over the rostrum were gracefully arranged two American ensigns; the sides of the hall were hung with bunting of various kinds, which was gracefully festooned over the many windows. In the intervening spaces between the windows were hung pictures suggestive of the duties, pleasures and hardships of firemen, together with portraits of illustrious men. At the rear end of the room, over a black background, was hung the beautiful silver trumpet which the company presented to their foreman, Mr. Charles C. Crosby, last February, together with the gentleman's portrait, which showed to great advantage. On either side of it hung a Chinese lantern; above it, on a pedestal, stood a plaster cast of a fireman in uniform, all of which tended to lend additional beauty to the scene. Chinese lanterns and small flags adorned the chandeliers in the hall, and the ceiling was literally covered with neatly arranged streamers of red and blue. The tasty arrangement of the hall was remarked by all present.

The music, which gave great satisfaction, was furnished by the Nantucket Quadrille Band of four pieces, Mr. W. B. Stevens, leader. The grand march and circle was followed by seventeen other figures, which gave ample employment to a hundred or more willing feet, and great pleasure to the large number of spectators into the small hours of Friday morning, and the firemen retired with the feeling that their Thanksgiving levee for 1875 could not but be pronounced as among the best of the year.

We return our thanks for the invitation from the company to be present on this occasion, which we highly enjoyed with the rest.

RELIC OF THE FIRE OF 1846.—Mr. Samuel C. Crawford, while at work last week making repairs on the building at the head of Old South Wharf, which was formerly the blacksmith shop of Josiah Coleman, found a small poster issued by the Selectmen of the town after the "great fire," pasted on one of the boards. It was still legible, though the insects had made serious inroads upon the sheet. The bill is well remembered by us, it being a specimen of our handiwork of those days. Mr. Crawford handed the board containing the sheet, in to us, and we publish a copy of the notice below:

Persons having suffered by the Fire and needing assistance will please hand to either of the Selectmen an account of their losses forthwith.

JOB COLEMAN,
CHARLES G. COFFIN,
WILLIAM BARNEY, JR.,
EBEN W. ALLEN,
ALFRED FOLGER,
NATHANIEL RAMP,
OBED SWAIN,
July, 1846.

The relic can be seen in one of the windows of Mr. Charles S. Cathcart's store.

For the Inquirer and Mirror.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I did not intend, at present, to again allude to this subject; but meeting on Federal street a few days since Mr. A. Easton, he was desirous of giving me a detailed account of his and his son's sufferings and loss by the recent Gibb's Swamp fire. He said he and his son were two days and one whole night fighting the fire, and by great exertion his son saved his building on Tashma's island; but all the western portion of their cranberry swamp was burnt, and consuming the turf so that it would be four or five years before it would recover. I learn, too, from others, that the fire has gone through the swamp, burning several fine cranberry bogs, and ascending Saul's Hills, has consumed those thrifty huckleberry bushes. During the time I was Superintendent of Lights, the S. E. Quarter was burnt over; every green shrub was blackened and charcoaled, and the herbage and grass laid in ashes—a doleful aspect truly. I had with me one of the Government inspectors—a scholarly and scientific gentleman. He expressed great surprise on witnessing the destructive effect of the fire, that any one should think it advantageous to the land, and said it not only burnt the herbage, but it burnt and materially injured the soil. From time immemorial, or, at least, since I have lived on this island, I have as much expected, every spring at least, to see clouds of smoke arising from this pernicious field fire-setting as I have expected that the sun would cross the line. What is now called Surf-side has oftener been burnt over than any other part of the island in years past, and after those beautiful pines had got to be from 12 to 20 feet high, the fire kindlers kept right on "burning off," as it was called, and this whole town, in many instances, was alarmed by the cry of fire, engines dragged out, ploughs put in requisition and furrows made, which were the only means of arresting the flames and saving hundreds of acres of valuable pines. Well may you have put the pertinent question, Messrs. Editors: "Is it not about time that some means were taken to put a stop to this costly annoyance?" Several times these pines have been on fire, and were only saved by the greatest exertions of hundreds of persons. In one instance, many acres, in spite of all that could be done, were burnt over, and for several years the blackened stumps and limbless trunks stood a sad memorial of at least the folly and indiscretion of certain persons, who, in all probability, had no right on the land, except to pass over it where there are roads or tracks, much less to set fire to it; and if they own some of the common and undivided land, it gives them no right to set fire to it. If the scientific gentleman I have alluded to is correct, and I have no doubt he is, it gives a solution of the problem of such very poor land as is found between the pines and the shore at Surf-side. The even table-land is admirably well adapted for the building of a cottage city on, but for cultivation would be nearly worthless. The necessary properties for sustaining vegetable life have been greatly diminished by this constant burning. In fine, it has been a most daring, high-handed, illegal, immoral and costly annoyance to very many persons, and should be put a stop to. If the friction match users are ignorant of the law on this subject, and wish to know what they are liable to, I would in this instance act as mentor for and counsel them to consult the General Statutes of our Commonwealth.

W. R. E.

Various Things Concerning Nantucket's Earlier Years.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

I had not planned to request more space in The Inquirer and Mirror at present, but agree with a previous writer that when one notices an error in articles on historical matters, it is better to offer corrections rather than let them pass unnoticed, and thus assist in getting as close to facts as possible. In friend Farnham's interesting article of last week on the fire engines of his boyhood days were one or two errors of location, and it may be of interest to have these set aright. My researches have developed the following facts as to the locations of the "old tubs" of the period between 1840 and 1860:

Engine No. 1 (she had no name) was located at the junction of Main and Milk streets, where stands Whittemore Gardner's grocery store. She had no suction, and her leading hose was of 2 or 2½ inches diameter. At fires she was placed near one of the old fire pumps and cisterns and filled by pumping and buckets.

No. 2—the Volunteer—was located on York street, next the Harris homestead. She was manned by colored men.

No. 3—the Active—occupied a house on Liberty street, on the northwest corner of M. F. Freeborn's house lot.

No. 4—Deluge—(known as "Double-Decker") was in the centre house (there were three) at the corner of Centre and Quince streets.

No. 5—Nantucket. I have found it difficult to get accurate information of this engine, but am informed she was at one time located on Union street.

No. 6—Cataract—located at first on east side of the Atlantic Straw Works office, just below E. A. Lawrence's house; she later was on Main street, next east the John W. Barrett (now Wallace) property; and later house and engine were again moved to Orange street, between the Willard property and the Frederick W. Folger shop.

No. 7—Torrent. This engine was in a house that stood north of the Reuben F. McCleave (now Hayward) property, on Centre street. She was later moved to the north of the three houses corner Centre and Quince streets, and her house sold, and it is now a part of the barn of James A. Holmes, Mount Vernon street.

No. 8—Fountain. At one time this popular machine had an abiding place on Main street, on land west of H. R. Coleman's home; then was transferred across the street to the No. 1's house, after the latter had been condemned, where she remained until the house on Centre street (rear of Union store) was prepared for her.

No. 9—Ocean. This old-timer for many years occupied a house on Ash lane, just off Centre street. Later she was removed to the No. 1's house, Main street, where she remained until sent to the scrap heap, when the house (as has been stated) was taken to Tuckernuck for a school-house.

No. 10—Niagara. Her home, so far as I can learn, was always in the house on Orange street, opposite Mulberry street.

No. 11—Pioneer. Known as the boys' engine, occupied the southern part of the triple house on Centre street.

The first breaking away from the old type hand tub was the purchase of the Deluge, No. 4, with her double set of brakes—one above the other. She was never esteemed a success. Then followed the John B. Chace, No. 4, a more modern piece of apparatus, purchased second-hand from Providence, some time between 1865 and 1868. I will not dwell on the more recent additions and improvements to our fire service.

Here's a little bit of poetic sentiment. The lines were written by Obed Macy, the historian, to Abigail Pinkham, afterwards his wife:

A long consideration
Of the good reputation
Thou hast in this nation,
Gives me an inclination
To become thy relation
By a legal capitulation;
And, if this my declaration
May but gain thy approbation,
It will lay an obligation
From generation to generation
On thy friend,
Who, without thy consideration,
May remain in expectation.

On mature consideration
Of this unique narration
Of his infatuation,
Without further hesitation,
With no coy dissimulation,
But with maidenly elation
And perhaps some perturbation—
She accepted annexation,
And life-long assimilation.

I wonder how many there are who know that at one time the Town owned the land on the northwest corner of High and Pleasant streets, and that there was located the "gaol." The jail-keeper's house, now on Vestal street, was moved from the Pleasant-High street site to its present location. On this same bit of town's land was also located the "poor house." And I am informed that at one time a fire engine was located there.

Returning again to local fire apparatus, possibly it may be well, for the benefit of those of younger growth, to describe the hook and ladder trucks of earlier years. These consisted of a pair of solid wheels of about four feet diameter, with solid axles. On these the fire ladders were placed—balanced—and the companies forwarded this unique outfit by drawing and pushing on the ladders. It was a primitive rig, and has been out of commission only a comparatively few years.

R. B. Hussey.

March 8, 1913

Coatue Shack, Valued At \$200, Destroyed By Fire

Summoned at 1:50 p.m. Saturday by the unusual alarm of 7-7, ten firemen and Indian portable pumps were taken to a blaze on Coatue by the Brant Point Coast Guard crash boat under the command of Lieutenant Arthur Gibbs.

The fire of undetermined origin was in a building owned by Joseph King on Hussey Street. Chief Cartwright estimated damage to the building, which was completely destroyed, at \$200.

Firemen and their equipment were ferried ashore in the dinghy of a small cruiser, "The Splash", anchored nearby.

The alarm of seven blows, rarely

Fire at The Emery House.

The Fire Department was called out about five-thirty Wednesday evening to extinguish a fire at the home of Mrs. Jennie C. Emery at 5 Milk street. The blaze, which originated from an over-heated ironing board in the wood shed adjoining the kitchen, was confined to the ell at the rear of the house. But for the prompt response of the fire department, there might have been serious damage to the entire house as the fire was rapidly gaining headway when the fire apparatus reached the scene.

Damage to the house was estimated by Fire Chief Cartwright at \$800, and to furniture of \$400, as a washing machine, vacuum cleaner and refrigerator, which were also kept in the wood shed were ruined.

Mrs. Emery and her housekeeper, Mrs. Sherman, spent Wednesday night at the home of a neighbor, but returned to their own home Thursday after the damage from smoke and water had been repaired.

Jan. 27, 1951

Fire Sweeps House With \$6,000 Damage

Fire which apparently started from a flooded kerosene heater used to heat a hot water tank swept through the one and half story house tenanted by Mr. and Mrs. Granville Cranston at the cranberry bog off Siasconset Road, early Christmas morning causing damage estimated by Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright at \$6,000.

The blaze was discovered by Kenneth Eldridge who saw smoke pouring from the house when he reported for work at the Siasconset pumping station about 7:30 a. m. He sounded an alarm from fire box 56 at the plant and the Siasconset apparatus responded. Meanwhile, Deputy Fire Chief Ernest Coffin telephoned the Central Fire Station an alarm and two more pieces of apparatus went to the scene from town.

The house was unoccupied at the time, Mr. and Mrs. Cranston and an only child having spent Christmas night at the home of his mother in town.

Firemen battled the blaze in freezing temperatures for nearly two hours but it had gained headway and all but gutted the inside. After the fire was in control, firemen remained at the scene for nearly an hour to prevent an outbreak.

heard on the Island, formerly was a call for firemen to meet at the square without apparatus. Now it summons firemen to the Central Station for an immediate emergency.

Another call rung in at the Station at 12:40 p. m. Monday was for a grass fire, started by an incinerator, on the grounds of the residence of Carl Bingham on the Cliff. It was extinguished at once and there was no damage.

Aug. 10, 1951

Chief Tells Of Fire Department Growth

Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright traced the growth of the Nantucket Fire Department from its early days of the hand-drawn apparatus to the present fire-fighting organization of modern equipment at the luncheon meeting of Rotary Club at Upper Deck Wednesday noon.

Chief Cartwright recalled amusingly when he and other Nantucket boys used to play "run-up"—dashing under a stream of water from a fire hose at a fire and going home, dampened in clothes but high in spirit. How different fires are fought was described by Chief Cartwright who pointed out, as an example, that an electrical blaze would not be extinguished with water but with CO-2.

Modern tanks for oil and gasoline of the Sherburne Oil Co. at Straight Wharf, equipped with up-to-date fire-fighting equipment, has removed one of the Island's biggest fire hazards, Chief Cartwright declared. The fire official said the installation compared with the best of the nation. As a result, should a blaze occur there, Chief Cartwright said he now felt confident his department could control it.

John Foley, chairman of the Massachusetts Housing Authority, was introduced by Charles Flanagan, chairman of the Nantucket Housing Authority, as a guest. Speaking briefly, Mr. Foley praised the Island Authority as having achieved the lowest construction cost and lowest rent in its housing project in the entire state. He also declared that the liquidation of the nine housing units, built with a loan of \$80,000, would soon begin and that the town would be reimbursed in full. The State has paid \$10,000 toward costs of the project, he added. The only loss to the town has been in taxes but tenants who will soon acquire ownership will begin paying them after the five year limit since construction expires.

Nov. 9, 1951

FIRE.—The community were startled on Monday evening by the dreaded cry of fire! and a lurid flame at the westward, which apparently threatened destruction to the whole town. It proceeded from the cooperage establishment of Mr. David Folger, at the head of Pearl Street, and was doubtless occasioned by lightning. A ball of fire, said by those who saw it descend, to have presented the appearance of a heated cannon ball, was first seen coming from the northwest. It fell as was supposed, farther to the westward, but soon a sheet of flame indicated the precise locality. It was at first thought that the fire was the work of an incendiary, but as it was to the leeward, a heavy rain falling, and the two buildings becoming sheets of flame almost spontaneously, it was conceded to have been occasioned by some powerful agent. The firemen were promptly on the ground, though the distance which the water was led, prevented them from getting water on the fire as soon as was desired. The heavy rain prevented the adjacent buildings from burning, as had it been dry, no power could have saved them. A large quantity of stock was in the building, about fifteen hundred barrels cask, and a quantity of chips and shavings. The building was the property of Mr. George Myrick. Mr. Folger estimates his loss at \$4500. \$1500 insured.

FIRE.—About half-past one o'clock on Monday afternoon, fire was discovered in the dwelling-house of Mr. David G. Hussey, on Federal Street, next north of the Inquirer Office. It was occasioned by the excessive heat of the chimney which so heated the surrounding wood work as to cause it to ignite. The heat proceeded from a furnace in the cellar used for baking artificial teeth. The damage by fire was trifling. The walls and other things, however were considerably injured by the unnecessary amount of water which was thrown into the building. And here, perhaps, it would be well to remind the members of the Fire Department of the fact that in cases of slight fires the principal damage is done by water, and they should not in the momentary excitement allow water to be profusely and carelessly thrown.—In the present case, six buckets of water judiciously applied would have extinguished the fire without much damage, but the building was literally flooded with water to no purpose other than to damage the house and enhance the trouble to the occupants. The Department were on hand with commendable alacrity, but fortunately trifling service was required. Mr. Hussey was insured.

We are informed that Stackpole and Chase, revoke their statement that George H. Sanford hired them to set the recent fires, thus having added perjury to their crimes. The conduct of these lads in the jail is much improved.

Struck by Lightning.

CURIOUS FREAKS OF A THUNDERBOLT, WHICH PASSES THROUGH A HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS AND CREATES HAVOC AND DESTRUCTION IN ITS PATH.

There was a brisk breeze stirring on Saturday last and toward night fitful clouds gathered above the horizon indicating that a rainfall might be expected. During the evening there were occasional flashes of lightning succeeded by the rumbling of distant thunder which gradually drew nearer as the hours passed on. Soon after 9 o'clock rain began to fall and the severity of the tempest increased causing a general stampede homeward of pedestrians. Still there was nothing about the tempest to characterize it as other than a moderate thunder shower. About half-past nine, however, the vividness of the flashes indicated that the thunder cloud was almost directly overhead. Suddenly there came a blinding flash accompanied by a terrific peal of thunder which rattled and reverberated for several seconds. To those who chanced to be on the street the sensation was startling and indescribable. Throughout the town people rushed to their doors, realizing that the lightning had struck and anticipating that fire might ensue, while many who had retired for the night sprang from bed in alarm. The fury of the tempest was spent however, though the flashes of lightning continued at intervals for an hour or so.

It was not until the following morning that the result of the lightning's freak became generally known and then it was learned that the house of Miss Elizabeth E. Adlington had been struck and considerably damaged. The house is occupied by Miss Adlington and her two sisters—Mrs. Easton and Mrs. Macy. The three ladies were seated around a table in the front room when the crash came. The sensation they describe as one never to be forgotten. The house was shaken to its foundation. The table rocked violently and the lamp would have been precipitated to the floor had not one of them grasped it instinctively. As soon as they recovered somewhat from the shock they proceeded to ascertain the extent of the damage. A hurried examination suggested the advisability of summoning assistance, as a strong smell of smoke indicated the presence of fire. Those who were first to arrive on the scene found the west chamber filled to suffocation with dust and noxious gases and smoke which issued from the debris with which the floor was strewn. The fire was promptly located and extinguished with a couple of buckets of water. An examination was then made of the damage wrought.

The bolt evidently entered the top of the chimney, passing down the west flue, loosening but not to any great extent dislodging the bricks. Upon reaching the chamber floor it evidently exploded following devious directions and finding exit at no less than five different points as indicated by the shattered window; displaced shingles and splintered door. In the upper hallway a large aperture was rent in the wall at the side of the chimney and the stairway was strewn with mortar. In the chamber before referred to the sealed partition above the fireplace was wrenched and twisted out of shape while the floor near by was torn up and a huge cross timber on which it rested blackened and splint-

ered. The room was covered with debris, and the window on the farther side badly demolished. A looking glass which hung over the fireplace was driven across the room, the glass pulverized and as though pounded in a mortar, and driven into the bed covering and curtain, while the frame was wrenched apart, and lay scattered about the room, one piece being driven directly through a wire screen on the farther side of the room. Other articles in the room were also scattered promiscuously around.

In the room below (the parlor) the moulding above the fireplace was torn from the wall and various pictures hurled about the room, several singularly enough being torn from the frame and scattered about yet receiving no injury. A fine oil portrait was hurled from the wall, and the frame blackened but the picture left comparatively uninjured. The wire by which it was suspended was wound and twisted into a curiously tangled mass. Thence the lightning entered an adjoining bedroom, demolishing three of the four lights of glass above the door between the two rooms, demolished the mirror of a bureau, splintering the frame, destroying various articles near it and scattering them about in dire confusion. It passed out just above the bureau, tearing off the shingles in its exit. The ceiling of the dining room beyond was cracked and settled, but otherwise no damage was done here. A back entry is formed by an L at the rear of the house and here the fluid made its exit at two points,—one near the eaves, demolishing the ceiling, and forcing up the roof, the other passing through the wall and between two doors, leaving the inner one uninjured, but gouging out a huge splinter from the outer one, thence striking a fence near by, tearing off two splinters and passing into the ground.

On the east side of the house two panes of glass were forced from a small window, probably by the concussion, as no traces of the lightning were here apparent. Loosened bricks and mortar were scattered upon the roof, though at a casual glance the chimney appeared to have sustained comparatively little damage. Subsequent examination revealed the fact that the bricks were so badly loosened as to necessitate its being taken down to the base and rebuilt.

As the news of the disaster spread through the town next morning people locked to the spot and during Sunday upwards of two hundred persons visited the house and inspected the lightning's work, while subsequent visitors have swelled the number to nearly if not quite double.

It is impossible to accurately compute the amount of damage, but it is estimated that it will approximate the neighborhood of \$100. There is however great cause for thankfulness that amid so much commotion and destruction the occupants should have escaped personal injury.

Carpenter Shop Damaged in Early Morning Fire.

The community was aroused by the loud blasts from the fire alarm about 2.15 o'clock Tuesday morning, the first blasts denoting a telephone call, followed immediately afterward by the number 25, and a few minutes later by a second alarm.

Residents in the vicinity of Lily and North Liberty streets had been awakened from their slumbers by the smell of smoke and the central fire station was at once notified by telephone. The apparatus made a quick response, considering the icy streets, and found the carpenter shop of Thomas H. Giffin, situated a short distance back from Lily street, a mass of flames.

Dense smoke was issuing from the building and the direction of the wind was such that the smoke was driven into near-by homes.

The firemen ran out a line of hose from the hydrant at the foot of Sunset Pass, but it was some minutes before they could get water onto the fire, as the hydrant was "caught" with ice and it took some time to get it freed.

Other lines were run to the burning building from the hydrant on North Liberty street, where there was excellent pressure, and although handicapped by ice and snow and the low temperature, the men handled the job well and soon had the fire under control.

At one time it looked as though the houses of Miss Bridgman and Tony Sarg were in danger, for the sparks were falling upon them constantly. The fire was confined to the Giffin shop, however, and was well in hand within an hour after the first alarm sounded, the "all out" being struck around 3.00 o'clock.

The building was well gutted, but the damage was not so great as was at first thought. Mr. Giffin had some valuable tools and wood-working equipment there, but the damage to that was not serious. It is thought the fire started in some saw-dust which had accumulated beneath a circular saw, and that it must have been smouldering for some time before breaking out, resulting in such dense clouds of smoke. There was no insurance on either building or contents.

The Nantucket Journal.

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 5, 1888.

Visit of the Mazeppas.

Wednesday the River Queen left here at 5 o'clock in the morning for Hyannis, where the Mazeppa Engine Company, No. 3, of Provincetown, Edward Dyer, foreman, was taken on board and brought to this place, arriving here about 9.30 o'clock. They were met at the wharf by the John B. Chace Engine Company, No. 4, of this town, John B. Collins, foreman, who saluted them as they passed out upon the pier. They were accompanied by the Provincetown band, which discoursed excellent music as the two companies marched up Broad, through Centre and Main streets to the headquarters of the No. 4's. The Mazeppas were dressed in a very neat uniform, consisting of black pants with red stripe, red shirts, trimmed with blue and white, and blue undress uniform caps, trimmed with red and gold bands. As they marched through the streets they presented a very pretty appearance. On reaching the headquarters the companies disbanded, and the visitors spent the remainder of the day in looking about the town.

At half-past 7 o'clock in the evening the companies formed in line on Main street, the No. 4 boys bearing lighted torches, and thence marched up the street, halting in front of Mr. Joseph S. Barney's residence to salute that gentleman. From this point they moved up around the monument, thence back over the route to Fair street,—stopping in front of Capt. George H. Brock's house to pay their respects,—thence through Plumb lane, down Orange street through Centre and Chester streets to the Springfield House, where landlord Mowry was given three rousing cheers. The line of march was then taken along North Water and Federal streets. On the latter street they halted and saluted Mr. Joseph B. Macy, when they returned to the place of starting, and made preparations for the ball, which was tendered the Mazeppas by the local company.

The ball, which opened about half-past nine, proved to be one of the pleasantest affairs of the kind, and the laddies whirled the lassies about in the merry dance to the excellent music furnished by Messrs. Stevens, Sumner and Johnson, the former gentleman officiating as prompter on the occasion. The order of figures was a well selected one. Messrs. James A. Holmes, Joseph A. Johnson, John P. Coffin and Charles W. Hall filled the position of floor managers most acceptably. The company did not disperse until well into the morning, when all had had their fill of the good time. The occasion was highly enjoyable throughout, and that the visiting firemen enjoyed it was evinced by their many expressions of approbation.

The Mazeppas took their departure on Thursday morning, at 8.30 o'clock, for Hyannis. Before marching to the boat they halted before our sanctum, where the band played several fine pieces, which were enjoyed alike by the editor, printer and devil. Their courtesy was highly appreciated. Our neighbors of the *Review* and the Ex-8 Association were also remembered in a like manner.

As the boat left the pier lusty cheers for the No 4's and Nantucket were given by the departing firemen, to which our boys responded with a will.

NOTES.

The visitors were a fine looking set of men, and their gentlemanly conduct while here was a subject of general remark.

The members of the John B. Chace are deserving of much credit for the handsome manner in which they entertained the visitors, the latter knowing no expense while here.

The Ex-8 Headquarters were illuminated, Wednesday evening, in honor of the visitors, as was the *Review* office on Centre street.

Sept. 23, 1877

Presentation.

Monday, after the arrival of the steamer, the members of John B. Chace Engine Company, No. 4, were notified by crier to assemble at the headquarters, as there was business of importance to come before them. The whole company assembled in response to the unusual call. Shortly before 9 o'clock, four gentlemen entered the room, and were introduced as Foreman Edward Dyer, of Mazeppa Engine, No. 3, of Provincetown, and Ex-Foreman Lemuel Cook, 2d, Messrs. William I. Smith and Rufus W. Baker, of the same company. Foreman Collins, in concluding the introduction, said that they had something to say to the company, of which he himself was ignorant, but supposed they would all soon know. Mr. Dyer arose and said he supposed it was somewhat of a surprise to all to see him present at this time, but the object of his presence was to thank them in a substantial manner for their endeavors to make the recent visit of his company a pleasant one, and in behalf of Mr. J. T. Smith, one of the Mazeppas, presented the company with a handsome and neatly-framed transfer picture, made by a young lady of his town and framed by Mr. Smith.

Foreman Cook, trusting that it would aid him in addressing the meeting. The company's surprise was great, and it took them several seconds to recover from their astonishment, when they burst forth with a round of applause. But the surprise was but temporary, for Mr. Cook took the floor, and in a neat and fitting speech presented the "boys" with a handsome silver trumpet, appropriately chased, and having the inscription:

Presented to
JOHN B. CHASE ENG. CO.,
No. 4,
BY
MAZEPPA ENG. CO.,
No. 3,
OF PROVINCETOWN, MASS.,
For courtesies tendered Sept. 19, 1877.

The company appeared to be entirely overcome by this second gift, but Foreman John B. Collins responded with a few fitting words, in which he thanked the Mazeppas for their unexpected presents, assuring them that the tokens would ever be carefully preserved, while the occasion of the visits of both the Mazeppas, and the delegates then present, would ever be remembered as among the pleasantest in the company's history. He concluded by introducing Dr. A. E. Jenks, who spoke briefly, thanking the Provincetown brothers for these souvenirs, which evinced a strong feeling of friendship between the two companies, which he hoped would ever continue. The speaker received hearty applause at the conclusion of his remarks. Mr. I. H. Folger, of the *Review*, was next called upon, but his remarks were brief, he having come, as he said, "to report, and not to be reported." A vote of thanks was then tendered the Mazeppas on motion of Mr. Daniel W. Folger, after which the meeting was dismissed, the business being completed. An inspection of the trumpet and picture, was then in order, after which, singing, instrumental music by Messrs. Chase, Handy Brothers and Hull, and general chat passed away an hour very pleasantly, all of which was apparently well enjoyed by the visitors.

Fire Engine Would Not Pump Water.

Just to recall the occasion to the minds of our readers we are reprinting the following item which appeared in our issue of July 4th last:

"Chief Norcross had a heap of trouble on his shoulders, Wednesday evening, when he ordered steam fire-engine No. 4 out for trial. It just happened that the engine had not been used before for over a year—one of the peculiarities of the Nantucket fire department which the new chief is supposed to remedy—and the fact that the engine refused to pump water from the cistern made everybody feel thankful that she had been brought out for trial and not for actual service at a fire.

The piece of apparatus was hauled out at 5.30 o'clock—at 6.35 she was just pumping water from the cistern. In the meantime she had "got up steam", had valiantly but unsuccessfully endeavored to move her valves and raise water from the cistern on the Lower Square; had then been taken over to a hydrant and connected up to the service pressure, which released her "stuck" valves; and had then been moved back to the cistern to suck and throw water the way a steam fire-engine ought.

But it had all taken time, and it had proven that last year's board of firewards had neglected their duty in looking after this particular piece of apparatus. Chief Norcross ought to have ordered the engine out for trial long ago, especially if he had any suspicion that she was not in working order. From just such conditions as these it is that little fires grow into big ones."

The trouble at that time was laid to the fact that the board of firewards had neglected their duty and had not given the engine the attention it should have received. But the firewards were certainly not at fault for a repetition of the performance which occurred on Friday afternoon week, when Chief Norcross had the same engine hauled out and steam gotten up, only to find (after a period of four months this time) that the engine was not in condition for immediate service and would not pump water from the cistern. The demonstration was far from satisfactory to the townspeople, who are paying good money to have the entire fire department in proper condition and ready to make prompt response and render immediate service when an emergency arises.

Doubtless Chief Norcross now realizes that four months was too long a time for the engine to remain inactive, for he had the engine brought out again on Tuesday afternoon, when the performance was much more satisfactory to both the townspeople and the Chief. It is fair to presume that having been "caught twice" by the No. 4 engine refusing to pump water the Chief will not let four months elapse again before ordering the steamer out for trial.

Afternoon Fire.

An alarm of fire was sounded from Box 53, on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, about two o'clock Monday afternoon, for a blaze in the attic of the dwelling of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Worth, situated on Monument Square. The fire was discovered by Archibald Cartwright, who promptly rang in the alarm, the occupants of the house not realizing the place was on fire until after the alarm was sounded. By the time the chemical could reach the scene flames were breaking through the roof. That piece of apparatus was able to handle the blaze, however, and did excellent work, the fact that the chemical fluid was able to control the fire preventing the flooding of the house with water.

The department responded well to the box alarm and Hose No. 7 had her stream ready for service almost as quickly as the chemical. The steamer No. 4 and Hose No. 6 also did well, and the No. 1 steamer from the south part of the town was brought up to the corner of Main and Pine streets, both engines having steam up and being ready for business had their services been needed.

Two hydrant streams were played on the roofs of the house and there was considerable excitement in the vicinity for a time, with several lengths of hose out and the hook-and-ladder outfits joining the other equipment.

In view of the progress of the fire when the alarm was sounded, it was surprising that it was extinguished with as little damage to the building. The sixty gallons of chemical fluid and the water which flowed in from the roof of course made quite a bad mess of the upper part of the house, but it was nothing to what it would have been had a hydrant or steamer stream been necessary to check the flames. The good work of the chemical equipment was apparent to all.

1921



FOLGER BLOCK—AS IT LOOKED BEFORE THE FIRE OF 1925 BURNED AWAY THE PARAPET ON ITS ROOF.

When Fire Threatened Folger Block and "The Mirror Office."

It was shortly after 6:30 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 27, 1925, that two men standing in front of the Union Store, corner of Main and Centre streets, observed smoke curling lazily up through the grating in the sidewalk in front of Folger Block, across the cobbles at the corner of Orange street.

For a matter of minutes they observed with surprise the smoke change color from white wisps to a black volume. Then, realizing it was something more than the janitor building a new fire, they rushed across the street to investigate. A glance was enough to tell them that the cellar under Folger Block contained a dangerous fire.

Box 45, a few steps up Orange street, was promptly pulled in, and the two pumpers from Centre street's central fire station were soon on the scene. One pumper dropped its suction hose into the old cistern in front of the Pacific Bank, while the other hooked on to the hydrant a few yards beyond, up Main street.

The fire had originated at a wooden partition in the cellar, where hot ashes had been piled by the janitor when he cleared out the furnace that morning. The flames might not have gained such headway had they not melted a hose of a rubber composition leading to a gas meter which, when the gas was released, acted like an open furnace.

The flames, spreading quickly, went up through the first floor and, with the rear stairway serving as a perfect "chimney," the fire roared its way up through the building to the roof.

Only the energetic efforts of the firemen saved the building. To complicate the situation, when the water had flooded into the cellar, extinguishing the blaze, the gas continued to escape, adding its choking contents to the stifling smoke and making the danger of explosion imminent.

When the flames were finally subdued, and the smoke had filtered from the building, it was fully realized how narrowly Folger Block missed being totally destroyed. Charred wood attested to the heat of the flames and smoke had discolored the entire interior. Even the wooden parapet on the roof was so badly damaged that it was permanently removed.

The present east store (now the Anglow Tweeds), was then the head office of the Citizens' Gas & Electric Co., and there had been time to remove the records and files. The shop of Mrs. Helen Purdue on the west side of the building was closed for the winter but it had some stock still there which was considerably damaged. Mrs. Purdue's apartment upstairs was also damaged. The office of Dr. Winslow G. Pearl was in the midst of being completed for its opening, but the smoke and water damage caused the opening to be postponed for several weeks.

The thick smoke had ruined most of the extensive stock in the plant of *The Inquirer and Mirror*, which adjoins Folger Block to the south. Of especial loss was the coated stock for the annual calendars, which had been cut ready for printing. A layer of smoke-black covered the machinery and even got into the linotypes, which had been protected by heavy wrapping paper placed over their usual cloth coverings.

But the fire had been extinguished before it could gain the headway which would have meant the gutting of Folger Block and probable extensive damage to the print shop.

It was a narrow escape—and no one recalls the incident more vividly than a certain young apprentice who was experiencing his first week in the print-shop of *The Inquirer and Mirror*.

MIDNIGHT FIRE!

Covil & Pease's Stable
Burned to the
Ground.

Six Horses Perish in
the Flames.

It was a wild night. The day. The storm which had been threatening all day burst forth soon after nightfall and increased as the hours wore on. The wind blew in fierce gusts and the rain and sleet beat against the window panes. "A bad night for a fire," thought many as they wrapped themselves in their blankets and lay down to sleep. The hours wore on. Thunder and lightning added to the disturbance of the elements. But twenty minutes remained before midnight, when borne upon the wind came the startling peal of the fire bell.

O, what a thrill of horror it sent to the heart of everyone thus rudely awakened, and only added to the general apprehension when it became known that the large wooden livery stable of Covil & Pease at the head of Steamboat wharf and directly to windward of the town, was a mass of flames. Just how the fire originated is not and possibly never will be known. The first parties to arrive on the scene found the flames under fierce headway in the stable department. Six valuable horses lay dead in their stalls, and it was a relief to know they had succumbed to suffocation before the devouring flames reached them.

An effort was made to save the rolling stock and one or two carriages, including the large party barge, were hauled out into the street. A small amount of grain was also saved, but the spread of the flames was so rapid and the heat so intense as to shortly preclude entering the building.

Meantime the fire department arrived and was putting forth its best efforts but to no avail, for the building was doomed. It was a magnificent but dreadful spectacle, excelling in splendor and magnitude the most brilliant pyrotechnic display. Clouds of sparks and burning cinders were driven by the high wind to the remotest sections of the town. In fact it literally rained fire. But for the copious rainfall nearly the entire town would undoubtedly have been doomed.

The building and contents were totally destroyed. Their value was upwards of \$3,000 on which there is but \$1,500 insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown but it is supposed to be the work of an incendiary, though it may have been occasioned by a spark from the pipe or cigar of some passer-by.

Feb. 4, 1897

OVER

Dec. 23, 1950

Charred Ruins of Nantucket Home



Body of Miss Frances Hall, 35, was found on an iron bed in these charred ruins yesterday after fire destroyed the small home she occupied alone on Orange Street, Nantucket.

day after fire destroyed the small home she occupied alone on Orange Street, Nantucket.

Lyons to Probe Nantucket Fire

Wants to Know Cause Of Fatal Blaze

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, March 15—District Attorney Maurice M. Lyons of New Bedford has ordered an investigation into this morning's dwelling fire which, authorities said, cost the life of Miss Frances Hall, 35.

The prosecutor said he has requested a "full-scale probe to determine if there is any criminality involved. We don't want to preclude any possibility and we want to protect the Commonwealth due to the unusual circumstance of this fatality," Mr. Lyons added.

Dr. Paul Cassidy, medical examiner for Nantucket County, said death of Miss Hall was due to "asphyxiation and burns." He added the death was accidental.

Although the fire in the small dwelling occupied by Miss Hall was discovered at 1:45 this morning, intense heat and flames prevented officials from entering the dwelling until several hours later. Body of Miss Hall was found on the charred remains of an iron bed. She was burned almost beyond recognition.

Miss Hall, employed by the Dry Shoal Cleaners here, was reported to have returned within the last few days after a vacation with her parents in Florida. She last was seen alive last night when she entertained a party of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Furlong, who operate the Island Home, across the street from the burned dwelling and a watchman at the Brandt Point lookout turned in alarms for the blaze almost at the same time. When the first apparatus arrived at the scene the house was enveloped in flames. Then, however, it was not known the dwelling was occupied.

The Recent Fire,

It is apparent to everyone that only the rain which preceded and accompanied the fire, which destroyed Covil & Pease's stable prevented a general conflagration which would have wiped out the greater portion of the town.—Clouds of sparks and burning embers were carried clear across the town and lodged on nearly all the houses in the path of the gale. Half-burned shingles and chunks of wood were found next day in the cemeteries west of the town. Nearly everyone in the vicinity of the fire and many in remote parts of the town packed up their valuables ready for removal.

State Detective Dexter and Fire Marshall Rice arrived by Friday's boat and ran down several clues which were thought might lead to a possible incendiary.

Thirty years ago come next November the stable of George Clark was burned during the night on the same site, and then as now horses, carriages and all were totally destroyed with the exception of one horse which broke loose and escaped.

One year and one month ago the stable of Herbert C. Smith, but a few feet eastward, was totally destroyed by fire and one horse perished.

Six weeks and six minutes prior to sounding the alarm for Covil & Pease's stable the alarm was rang in for the fire in E. H. Swan's grocery store.

In each of the last three instances snow or rain fell during the fire.

Feb. 11, 1897

Old Nantucket House Destroyed by Fire.

One of the most disastrous fires on Nantucket in recent years occurred on Friday evening week, when the dwelling owned by Hugh MacDougall and located a short distance from the water works road, near the junction with Hinckley lane, was totally destroyed together with its contents.

Situated some distance west of the town limits, the fire gained considerable head-way before it was discovered and by the time the apparatus reached the scene the building was a raging furnace. It was shortly after 10.30 o'clock that the community was aroused by the fire alarm sounding from box 28, followed a few minutes later by the number 123.

The first alarm was sounded by Mrs. Cecil Richrod, who, upon nearing her residence on North Liberty street, noticed the blaze which was lighting up the heavens in the vicinity of the golf links. She immediately rang in the alarm from the nearest box, located near the home of Harold Killen. Almost at the same time the fire had been noticed by Thomas McGrath from his home over on the Hummock Pond road, and McGrath at once telephoned word to the central fire station.

Chief Blair happened to be in his car when the alarm came in and reached the scene ahead of the apparatus. He immediately realized that conditions were serious, so sent in the second alarm. All three pieces of motor apparatus responded and a speedy run was made out over the north road, with the usual trail of private cars following along in the wake of the apparatus.

The building was a roaring furnace by the time the department reached the scene, but it did not take long before water was being poured onto the flames from three hose streams, with an abundant water supply available.

Gradually the water subdued the flames, but the dwelling and its contents were destroyed. The only part of the house left standing was a portion of the east wall and a small section of the side.

Hundreds of people watched the place burning and the department was complimented on the way it handled the situation. An unfortunate accident occurred, however, when Russell Pemberton fell from a ladder as the south side of the building started to collapse. The man landed on his back and as he fell the crowd gasped with horror. His injuries were not serious, however, which was very fortunate indeed. Rushed to the hospital as speedily as possible after he fell, he was treated by Dr. Folger, and given a thorough x-ray examination.

A slight fracture of the lower leg just above the ankle was revealed, but there were no other injuries other than a sprained back and bodily bruises. Pemberton's condition is favorable for an early recovery and he will probably not be incapacitated for any great length of time.

The Firemen's Association has for a number of years been raising a relief fund with which to meet just such emergencies and Pemberton will be taken care of by the Association, both as to medical and hospital care. Those who have assisted the firemen in the creation of their relief fund will now realize its worth.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDougall, who owned the property destroyed, had been at work there during the day preparing it for occupancy the coming season. They were residing in their smaller cottage some distance to the south and were astonished to find the larger house in flames.

The fire undoubtedly started somewhere in the kitchen and spread rapidly all over the house before it was discovered. The flames were under control in about an hour after the apparatus arrived and the "all out" was sounded. About 4.30 in the morning, however, the fire broke out again in the ruins and was noticed by Charles Duce, who lives in the vicinity. He promptly sent in an alarm from 123 and the apparatus was sent up to give the ruins another soaking.

The house and its contents were fully covered by insurance in Brock's agency.

The building destroyed was one of the old-style Nantucket houses. It formerly stood on Fair street, between the Unitarian parsonage and the residence of Miss Brock. Many years ago it was taken down in sections and re-constructed on the hill near the golf links, being owned by the MacDougall and Scott families, and then by the Rev. Edward L. Eustis, subsequently being conducted by Miss Jean Cobb as a tea-room which she called "The 19th Hole." It has been owned by Hugh MacDougall for a number of years and has been rented during the summer months.

May 25, 1935

March 22, 1952

THE \$12,000 FIRE AT NANTUCKET ON SUNDAY LAST



The above picture was taken by Gardiner while the barn was burning, before the dwelling had caught fire. In the foreground to the right will be noticed the grass afire to the north of the dwelling, which endangered the cottage several hundred feet distant. On the extreme left is the only farm building not eaten up by the flames, the dwelling and the numerous buildings at the rear being destroyed a few minutes after this picture was taken.

The dwelling was one of the "old Nantucket houses" and was built over a hundred years ago. It formerly stood in town, on the lot now occupied by the residence of Clifford Folger, on Centre street, near the Congregational church. Just when it was moved to the farm site is not known, but the general character of the place, with its massive chimney and fire-place, was a typical Nantucket dwelling of a century ago.

It was at one time occupied, on the farm, by George Easton, who sold it to Bailey Cornish, who conducted the farm with profit many years. At his death his son Bailey took charge, and it later passed into the hands of his daughter Sarah, widow of the late Capt. William T. Swain, who has since had control of the property under the name of "Island View Farm."



This view of the fire was caught by Gardiner's camera just after the chemical returned from her hurried trip back to town to renew her tanks with water and after she had squelched the blaze which threatened the cottage on the hill. The farm-house was then being eaten up by the flames and the crowd which had hovered about it for an hour previous had scattered to cooler places. At the extreme left of the picture may be seen the shores of Hummock pond, from which some people claim a steamer could have drawn water to "play" on the fire.

AUGUST 2, 1913

Since our last issue the island of Nantucket has been the scene of a terrible holocaust and the community has been saddened by a loss of life in a burning building not equalled since the destruction of the asylum at Quaise, sixty-seven years ago. The large boat-house belonging to Mr. and Mrs. William Barnes, Jr., a story-and-a-half wooden structure which stood on the tip end of Commercial wharf, was completely destroyed early last Saturday evening, and two young girls, Miss Helen Wilson of New York, aged twenty years, and Miss Mildred DeHaven of Brooklyn, seventeen years, were burned to death in the flames. Ulysse Pahud, the Barnes family butler, died shortly after from injuries which he received in endeavoring to rescue the young women, and Thomas B. Kerr, of New York, died Monday evening at 8 o'clock, after making a gallant fight for life against great odds, his body being so badly burned that the flesh left the bones. Thurlow Weed Barnes, 2d, the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, was so seriously burned about the face and limbs that he hovered in a critical condition for three days after the fire, but on Wednesday Dr. J. S. Grouard, the physician who attended the injured, announced that he would recover.



THE LATE ULYSSE PAHUD—A HERO.

"I tried my best to save the ladies; I'm sorry I did not succeed," were the dying words of the valet, Pahud, whose magnificent bravery at the terrible disaster in the Barnes boathouse at Nantucket, should live long in the annals of the island. His "best" was his life; more no man can give. This was not the service of a paid personal attendant, but gallantry in the face of death, on the part of a gentleman and a hero. In the record of the Book of Gold there is no distinction of master and man.—Editorial in Boston Post.

JULY 1, 1911

NANTUCKET'S FIRE HORROR

Complete Account of the Terrible Disaster of Last Saturday Evening, Which Wiped Out Four Young Lives.



The Barnes boat-house before the fire. Cross marks the western entrance to the building. After this picture was taken, the piazza in front was continued to west end of the building. Photo by Boyer.



Scene when the fire was at its height, taken from the west. Cross marks western door-way. Work-room window on the left. Photo by Gardiner.



The ruins after the fire, looking northeast. Cross marks the place where the bodies were found. Photo by Boyer.

Fire Department Now Efficient Organization After Small Start

By ALICE B. HOWARD

A recognized need for community fire protection must have emerged slowly to the inhabitants of the town of Sherburne on Nantucket Island in 1671. For it was not until 1750 the Board of Selectmen recorded the purchase of an "engine for 18 pounds sterling to quench fires."

From that first simple hand-hose cart to the present red brick station house with its cream-colored trim is a story of growth and modernization.

Today, Nantucket firefighters number 83, including both permanent drivers and call men who respond to an average of 70 fires a year. Four fire companies, including a hook and ladder, are housed at the Central station. With the exception of the rebuilt Ford 500-gallon engine in Siasconset in town and all modern LaFrance fire trucks which will pump from 500 to 1000 gallons of water per minute. Two of the trucks are also equipped with booster tanks, utilizing an inch hose.

Because of its isolation and remoteness from the mainland, Nantucket has to depend entirely on its own resources in fighting fires.

"The residents of the Island are quite well aware of this factor," Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright said. He added that vacationists, however, are not as mindful about the Island's situation 30 miles at sea and are apt to be more careless in discarding lighted cigarettes.

He declared that the principal sources of Island fires are overheated stoves and furnaces in the early Fall and cigarette smokers and picnickers in the Summer.

The Nantucket Fire Department, however, has an enviable record for putting fires under control quickly, despite the preponderance of wooden structures throughout the Island.

"Since the great fire of 1846," Chief Cartwright said, "not a second building — and by that I mean a neighboring house or barn — has caught. The department is speedy and alert." But the fire official was quite well aware of the danger inherent in the mass of wooden structures, possible strong winds and the lack of help which most communities on the mainland can rely on in the event of a disastrous fire.

"It's my personal opinion that Providence keeps a kindly eye on Nantucket," he grinned. "We've been lucky. A serious fire with a high wind could lay half the town flat before we could begin to cover the danger spot."

Chief Cartwright emphasized, nevertheless, that Nantucket's present fire equipment and personnel is as fine as any community of a similar size in Massachusetts has.

The Island took a major forward step in fire fighting when it replaced the bucket brigades system with that of hand-drawn pumpers between 1920 and 1929 — the nine years that the late Orison V. Hull served as chief of the department.

For the 170 preceding 1920, there had been a gradual development in the method of fighting blazes in both town and Siasconset.

The first firewards, appointed in 1765, were Joseph Jenkins, John Coleman, Richard Mitchell, William Coffin, William Rotch, Taber Morton, Jonathan Burnell, Joseph Heath and Obed Hussey Jr., who was the chief. These ten men acted as guardians and repair crew for the three hose carts as well as partially-trained volunteer firefighters. Their only equipment, other than the hose carts, were five dozen leather buckets, a half dozen ladders, their wits, strength and courage.

Thus a shadowy fire department began to appear although still weak enough to be of little use in the event of a serious fire. Strategic fire apparatus housing was constructed, fire drills were instituted at three month intervals and two captains were appointed and placed in charge of the carts and their care.

A year later — in 1770 — the proposal was made at the town meeting but it was not approved until 17 years later. Even then the duties of the fire watch were combined with those of the night watch who strolled the streets of Sherburne to "prevent disorder in the night and keep boys and servants in order in the streets."

No doubt, with these extra precautions, townspeople went to their beds at night feeling safer. Six years later, another fire protective measure was taken when the town "voted to choose a committee to build two cisterns. Unfortunately the vote was "reconsidered and one built." Even this hesitant step toward a central water supply system in a town which had been without one for a century lessened the fire hazard.

Island historians record that from the first settlement of the Island to 1836, the value of property destroyed by fire did not exceed \$36,000 — a remarkable record when measured against today's fire losses.

The record was to be marred within the next decade by several large fires, including the "Great Fire Of 1846." Although apparently there was no connection with these later disastrous fires, fire department history reports the threat of a firebug to burn Nantucket to the ground in 1825. No further light is shed on the subject other than a record which says: "Voted, the Selectmen offer a reward of \$1,000 to

any person who will discover the villain who posted up or wrote the advertisement to set the town on fire, so that they may be convicted and brought to punishment."

In May, 1836, a fire occurred which caused more damage than in the nearly 150 year period preceding. It razed the Washington House and several stores on Lower Main Street with a loss estimated at nearly \$40,000. The women were reported to have joined the men in fighting the blaze.

Two years later on June 2, 1838, another disastrous fire which originated in a ropewalk in the rear of Union Street swept between 20 and 30 buildings.

From the point of view of human life, a fire February 21, 1942 was the most costly in the history of the Island. The blaze broke at 2 o'clock in the morning in the Alms House, burning 10 of the 39 inmates to death.

Four years later, "The Great Fire Of 1846," on the night of July 13 broke out in the hat store of William H. Geary on Main Street and enveloped a large area of the town. Between 300 and 400 buildings were destroyed and 200 lost their homes. The total damage was estimated at \$1,000,000. The flames roared for nine hours through the area, wiping out many of the small businesses of the town.

There is an old story still told about the beginnings of that fire but proof is lacking. The claim has been made that two hose carts, both crews eager to be the first to lay a stream of water on the flames, dashed up to a cistern on Main Street at identical moments. Speedily they unrolled hoses, reaching the cistern together. At that point personal tensions, roused to boiling, broke forth and blazed angrily while the fire, halfway up Main Street on the South side and fanned by a wind, grew steadily worse.

How long the quarrel at the cistern continued is not reported but this factor has been offered as a probable cause for the flames reaching an uncontrolled pitch so swiftly.

A total of seven engines, several of which had to be abandoned to the flames before the night was over, pumped valiantly to control that bounding conflagration. By the time the fire was smouldering sullenly and the ashes cooling, Nantucket's fire department was crippled and disrupted.

That the town made a partial recovery within six months after the destruction is an old story. But it took somewhat longer for the depleted fire department to rebuild equipment, pumpers and houses, although it fully realized the urgency. Cisterns were re-

paired and new ones built in carefully chosen locations. Hose-carts were mended and repainted while orders went through to the mainland for buckets and ladders. Fire housing was redistributed so that any part of the town could be reached with more than reasonable quickness.

The John B. Chace handpumper engine, the first of its kind to come to the Island, was purchased in Providence, R. I., and brought across the water in 1867. This was a notable improvement for small as it was by modern standards, it could pump a larger quantity of water faster than anything else in Nantucket. Less than ten years later, an official bucket brigade was organized, trained and drilled periodically to maintain its efficiency.

With the establishment of the Wannacomet Water Company by Moses Joy in 1878 and the construction of hydrants, a natural development, the first truly modern step toward protection of personal and town property against fire had arrived. Now, with the hoses attached to the hydrants, a stream of water backed by compression could be thrown over buildings, as tests made March 9, 1882, proved.

It was a forward-looking step, although attended by resentment and jealousy for certain local factions, among them the firewards, opposed the new company. When the fire department was asked to lend hoses, pipes and fittings to try out water pressure, it flatly refused. The water company was forced to import from New Bedford the equipment denied them by the department.

This tempest in a teapot was apparently resolved satisfactorily for in March, the following year, the firewards cooperated with the company in a competitive test between the handpumper John B. Chace and the compressed water from the new hydrants.

Within the next 16 years, the fire department continued to expand and improve. The first of two steam engines was purchased in 1896, the second a few years later. The beginnings of a modest Siasconset fire department were made the same year. The village bought a hand-hose cart and several reels of hose, axes, buckets and ladders. Then, in July 11, 1900, the new pumper engine, the "Siasconset No. 1" was tested.

The men and the women of the village organized two contesting teams to see who could throw a stream of water the farthest. Pumping energetically, the men laid a stream through the streets which measured 123 feet and two and one half inches. The women, cheered on by the non-participants, bettered that record by a quarter of an inch!

The first fire department chief, Arthur Norcross, took office in 1906 and immediately settled down to adjust organizational problems and to plan for further expansion. In 1912 he ordered the Knox Auto-chemical, an engine designed to smother fire through the use of chemical solution. Housed in the new John B. Chace Engine Central station at the corner of Quince and Center Streets when it came to the Island about a year later, it was not called to display its talents until February 13, 1914.

Fire broke out in Henry Riddell's house on Center Street, the present location of Evelyn Gardner's beauty shop and the engine, which had been a seven-day wonder to the Islanders, proved itself without a doubt. Bystanders watched the chemical reduce the danger of spreading fire with amazement. They marveled that flames were extinguished in less time than it took the steamers.

Chief Norcross and his crews of smoke-eaters travelled to Nantucket fires for 14 years, controlling any fire danger skillfully. Then in 1920 and for the next nine years the fate of the department lay with Mr. Hull, one of the most practical-minded and successful of chiefs.

During his regime, plans were laid and completed for the construction of the present red-brick fire station although Mr. Hull did not himself serve as chief in the new building.

The first fire chief to occupy the new station was William J. Blair, who served as assistant under Chief Hull. He took charge when Chief Hull resigned and contributed steadily towards improvement of the department during the next 17 years that he served as chief.

It was Chief Hull who revised the antiquated fire alarm system. For many years, the alarm was rung by two firewards from the church towers directly on the bells. When greater centralization of the department materialized, the alarms were continued to be sounded on the church bells but the additional improvement of connecting the alarm electrically to corner fire boxes was made.

Mr. Hull took another modernization step by establishing a central fire alarm call board in the Central station.

The alarm for the townspeople was to be broadcast through a horn which was to stand upon the roof of the station. Alarms rung in from the street boxes were known as "still alarms" for they registered silently on the central call board in the station. If the call was in the North part of the town two blasts indicated the direction, if in the South three blasts. Grass fires, it was decided, would be indicated by one blast from the siren and the first aid squad, ready to assist in drownings or other accidents, would respond to four blows.

Chief Cartwright, in discussing the present fire alarm system, said that the majority of fires are called in on the telephone although grass fires are usually rung in from boxes. He feels also that, with the increase in city dwellers and off-Island home owners in Nantucket, the alarm system is due for another overhauling. "It's something I want to work on," he said. "Still alarms cover a big territory and we need something more exact now."

The present chief joined the department in 1916 as a call man. At that time the No. 1 steamer was housed on Orange street in the building now used by the Street Department. A few months later he was transferred to the John B. Chace Engine Company No. 4 on Center Street. The Cataract, a famous old hand tub, was still in use as were the old Engines 8, Engine 1 and 4 and the Knox Chemical.

The first motorized fire engine came to the Island in 1923. It was a Stutz and became the prized possession of the department. Chief Cartwright, in speaking of the days when the Stutz, glistening in fresh paint, roared through Nantucket's narrow streets, commented, "She was a wonderful engine. If the Stutz factory hadn't closed and parts were still available she'd be as good today as she was 25 years ago."

The second modern fire engine was brought to the Island in the Fall of 1925. A 750 gallon LaFrance motor truck, she replaced the Engine 1 which had burned her crown sheets at the Point Breeze Fire, because of too much fire in the boiler and not enough water in the tank.

The chief added another sidelight to the days previous to the motorization of the department when he said that the Nantucket Fire Department had never kept a stable of horses as was customary in off-Island cities. If horses were needed for long, hard hauls, the near-by livery stable horses were brought over and hitched up to the steamers.

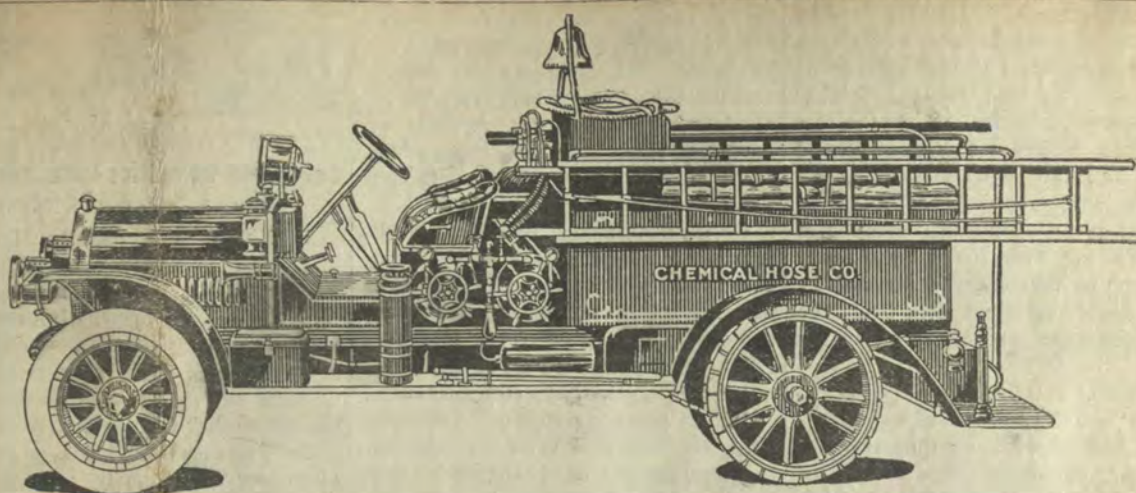
Thus down to a relatively recent period, steamers, hook and ladders and chemicals have been mostly hand-drawn to fires. First the crews, later the call men provided the brawn and muscle to tug fire equipment through the narrow streets. Even today, the call men, no longer required to stand between shifts, are as faithful and energetic to their duty. Chief Cartwright commented: "Callmen work with the interests of the town at heart, not for a salary."

The present staff headed by its experienced and understanding chief consists of Edward Lewis, first assistant chief; Ralph I. Bartlett, second assistant chief; George Haddon, superintendent of fire alarms; Oscar Folger, deputy in Siasconset and the drivers, Norman Barrett, Antone Sylvia and Thomas Hamblin.

The comfortable second floor room of the station house with six dormer windows facing toward the harbor is Chief Cartwright's office. It was furnished a few years ago by the Nantucket Firemen's Association and is an attractive and relaxing place for their meetings as well as for the chief's business.

The second floor has as well five bedrooms where the men on night duty may sleep until the gong drives them from their beds. Lavatories and storage closets complete the layout.

The Firemen's Association, first organized about 1924, provides a fire school on a small scale with lecturers from the mainland. Approximately 60 belong and attend the regular monthly meetings. Present officers are Benson Chase, president; Norman Barrett, vice-president; Albert Silva, secretary and Charles Barr, treasurer.



NANTUCKET'S NEW AUTOMOBILE CHEMICAL ENGINE.

The above is a photo of the new automobile chemical fire engine under construction for the town of Nantucket, at the factory of the Knox Automobile Company in Springfield. The machine is equipped with two chemical tanks, 200 feet of chemical hose placed in a basket suspended above the body, chemical hose nozzle, and highly polished brass receptacles on the side running-boards, for holding acid bottles and soda bags. It also carries a Detroit door opener, crowbar, axe, two lanterns, two three-gallon fire extinguishers, two pipe holders, one 20-foot extension ladder and one 12-foot roof ladder. Back of the driver's seat and suspended above the hose basket is a 12-inch locomotive bell, and on the dash will be found a ten-inch search-light. The car is also equipped with two gas head-lights, two oil and electric side-lights and one oil and electric rear-light. Lights are automatically ignited from an electric switch on the dash, which also carries a speedometer, clock and siren horn. On the side of the driver's seat is a hand horn and bulb. The whole equipment is modern and up-to-date, and Nantucket's chemical will represent the very latest fire-fighting machine in use today. It will cost the town \$5,900—quite an expensive piece of apparatus, to be sure, but one which will doubtless prove its worth many times over.

May 1, 1912

Nantucket's Fire Department One Hundred Years Ago.

In contrast to the present Fire Department, with its efficient systemized methods, its motorized equipment, and its Association, is the fire-fighting organization of the town one hundred years ago.

In 1834 there was no central fire station. The old methods of combating a blaze prohibited centralization. The authority was vested in a Board of Directors under the Firewards, and the equipment consisted of seven hand-pumping carts, of various capacity, stored in the several sections of the town where, it was deemed by the Firewards, they would be most needed in case of fire.

These hand-pumps were operated by volunteer companies, all residing in the vicinity of the place where the apparatus was stored. These "engines" were the best that could be manufactured at the time, and each company was in charge of responsible citizens.

As to the general location of these hand-pumps, and those in charge, the following will be of interest.

At a meeting of the Firewards of the Town, held at the Town Hall on the evening of March 22, 1834:

Voted: To assign six of our number to have the care of property in jeopardy during the fire, as follows:

Frederick W. Mitchell, Philip S. Folger, Nathaniel Barney, James Mitchell, Obed B. Swain.

Voted: To assign three of our number to the direction of each engine, classed as follows:

To No. 1 Engine, situated on Pleasant street, north side of Elihu Swain's store: Joseph Starbuck, Thomas Macy, Matthew Myrick.

To No. 2 Engine, situated on Orange street, near Rowland Coleman's store: Christopher Wyer, Reuben Meader, David Worth.

To No. 3 Engine, (Active), on Fair street, opposite Isaac Folger's shop: Daniel Jones, Peter Macy, Obed Starbuck.

To No. 4, Engine, (Volunteer) in Coffin's Court, head of Broad street: Peter Chase, Aaron Mitchell, Frederick Hussey.

To No. 5 (Nantucket), on Washington street, near Christopher Mitchell's house: Philip H. Folger, David Thain, Benjamin Worth.

To No. 6 Engine (Cataract), situated in Liberty street, opposite Paul Worth's house: George B. Upton, Frederick C. Macy, Robert M. Coffin.

To No. 7 (new), to be placed in the north part of the town: Samuel B. Tuck, Robert Mitchell, James Macy.

Directors of the Hook and Ladder Companies—Benjamin Gardner, William B. Coffin, Charles G. Coffin.

A. Mitchell, Chairman,
S. B. Tuck, Secretary.

Fire Apparatus.

In Pleasant street, south side of Elihu Swain's store, is one long and one small Ladder.

In Orange street, near Engine-house No. 2, is one long and one small Ladder, one Firehook; the rope and prop in Engine-house.

In Fair street, near Isaac Folger's house, is a set of Ladders on wheels, with two props and one pole for Firehook.

In Coffin's Court, near Engine-house, are one long and one small Ladder and pole to Firehook—the Fire-hook, rope and prop are kept in the Engine-house.

In Liberty street, near Engine-house, are one long Ladder, one Firehook and one prop.

At Commercial Insurance Office are one long Ladder and prop, and several buckets.

At Quaise, near the Asylum, stands an Engine with all its apparatus, well-known as the Little Engine.

An extract from the Fire Law of 1797 followed, which gave the Firewards, Selectmen, or other officers, the authority to direct the demolishing of any structure, house or building for the purpose of preventing the spread of a fire. A fine of ten dollars was the penalty for not obeying an order during a fire.

March 15, 1948

March 31, 1904



In the foreground is all that was left of the servants' quarters at "Manner Farm" after the fire of last Monday morning. The close proximity to the main dwelling is apparent from the picture, which shows where some of the sections were scorched.

Fire at Manner Farm Caused \$5,000 Damage.

Shortly after 4.00 o'clock last Monday morning, the community was awakened by the fire alarm sounding 1-5-1 for a fire which had been discovered on the "Manner Farm" property at Surfside, owned by Mrs. Mary Manner Wadsworth, widow of the late Frederick Wadsworth, of Detroit. The building, situated about 150 feet north of the residence, used as servants' quarters, was completely destroyed with its contents, entailing a loss estimated at \$5,000, with insurance on the property totalling \$4,500.

It was a wild night for a fire, and telephone lines were down to all sections of the island. The blaze was discovered by John Wlazlo, who was on duty at the radio compass at Surfside, and he immediately awakened Chief Goss and Operator Richards. The men realized that the building was doomed, but Wlazlo and Richards used hand extinguishers and did good work in their efforts to prevent the flames reaching the main building, while Chief Goss drove four miles into town to notify the department, as all communication by wire was down.

Chief of Fire Department Blair and his crew of seven men were on duty in the central fire station and, as soon as he received word of the fire, the Chief ordered three pieces of apparatus to the scene, realizing that any efforts to combat the blaze would have to be made with the chemical equipment, as Surfside has no available water supply for the pumps.

By the time the apparatus made the run across the island to Surfside, the building had been demolished by the flames, and all the fire-fighters could do was make sure none of the embers reached the Wadsworth residence or other buildings on the property.

The origin of the fire could not be determined, as it had not been occupied since last autumn. Nothing whatever was saved of the contents, which included an automobile and considerable personal property used on the estate.

Other Deaths by Fire.

The loss of four lives this week in the boat-house fire was undoubtedly the worst catastrophe of the kind that has occurred on Nantucket since the destruction of the asylum at Quaise, with ten of the inmates, on February 23, 1844. Since that time two or three other deaths have resulted from fire, but in neither case was the building destroyed, as in the asylum and boat-house fires.

On the evening of December 24, 1874, a lady named Mary Coffin, 78 years old, fell to the floor with a kerosene lamp in her hand and was burned to death before help reached her. The house was saved from destruction by the prompt work of neighbors.

Susan Lefford died March 9, 1907, from burns which she received by her clothing catching fire from a stove. The building was uninjured.

Fire Damaged Jelleme Home.

The home of Lewis B. Jelleme, at 156 Main street, suffered considerable damage due to a partition fire late Saturday afternoon, June 24th. The fire started as a result of an accident that occurred while plumbing repairs were being made under the house.

Apparently sparks jumped from a blowtorch in use under the house eventually starting a blaze that spread to the kitchen above within the wall of the building. The walls and ceiling of the kitchen were gutted and damage was done to the adjoining dining room and a bedroom above.

The fire was brought under control and extinguished by members of the local fire department. Several pieces of apparatus were called to the scene, and there was little difficulty in dealing with the fire.

The Fire Department—Old and New.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

My old friend David Joy Starbuck carries the housing places of the old engines back to the time when I first knew of them. The Pioneer, the boy's engine, as I recall it first, was housed with Fountain 8 on Center street. It was not until 1858 or 9 that it was moved up onto Liberty street. I was a member of the company then and our first fire after that was at a house at the upper end of Main street nearly opposite the Friends' Burial Ground. We ran our engine into the yard and draughted water from a water hogshead, holding the fire in check until the larger engines came. No. 8 pulled into the yard where we were, up to a well, and ran their suction hose into the well. The firewards knew they would soon pump that dry and so they ordered them to pump into the little Pioneer. They didn't relish the job, but they had to do it. The second fire was the ship Planter, but I left home in July, 1859, and that was soon after I came away. The records of the Firewards ought to show all such things; where are they?

Speaking of fires, I am reminded of your comments on expressions of opinion regarding the Swain farm fire July 27, in which you mention the criticism of the Fire Department for not running the steamer out there and draughting water from Hummock pond. I think it would puzzle that critic to get the heavy engine near enough to the pond to use suction hose, but everybody knows another man's business better than he knows it himself.

Now let me make two criticisms. There may be a good answer to each of them, but what is it? First, why in laying out street numbers for the carrier system was not some comprehensive scheme used that would not be overturned by the erection of another house on the street? Houses seem to be numbered as they stand now; putting in another one would demoralize all the numbers beyond it. Here in Waltham the lots are numbered on each 25 feet front and putting in a score of houses would not affect the numbers.

Second, why does not your electric lighting company put longer yard arms on some of the street lights? I notice many of the present lights right in the midst of trees and doing but little good, while a five or six feet longer yard arm would carry the light where it would illuminate a long distance.

Nantucket Jr.

Waltham, Aug. 11.

April 1, 1923

July 1, 1950

Aug. 16, 1913

Night Fire Destroyed Coghill Residence at Quidnet.

In the most disastrous fire in recent years, the handsome residence of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Coghill, at Quidnet, was completely destroyed by flames on Wednesday evening. The large dwelling, with its many elaborate interior appointments, fully equipped with modern conveniences and many unique devices, its furnishings, including numerous collectors' items, its library and conservatory, were entirely consumed by the flames.

During the hours from 6:10, when the blaze was first discovered, until 8:00 o'clock when the kitchen section was finally enveloped by the flames, the fire raged out of control, with the firemen unable to combat it, due to the lack of any water supply for the pumpers. The feeling of helplessness was never more apparent—and with the Atlantic ocean within a few yards, the very nature of this supply made it impossible to utilize it.

Mr. and Mrs. Coghill had just returned to the island from New York, and, according to Mr. Coghill, the blaze originated in the sleeping quarters, and is thought to have been caused by a short circuit in a radio which had been placed on a dressing table. This, however, is only a conjecture, and the true cause of the incipient blaze may never be definitely determined.

Two pumpers responded from the Central Fire Station, immediately upon the receipt of the alarm, and the number 1-4-6 was sounded on the fire horn. When the apparatus arrived, after making the run in excellent time considering the tortuous curvings of the road, the blaze had gained a tremendous headway.

The booster lines of the pumpers went into action quickly, but the odds were too great. The blaze had mushroomed with incredible speed throughout the southwest section of the house—and as soon as the fire broke out into the open, the high wind fanned it into a roaring mass of flame.

Within fifteen minutes, the entire house became an inferno, with red and yellow flames sweeping high into the air, the sparks and thick, heavy black smoke rising like a pall. The crackling roar of the sea of flame grew louder as the wind from the south-east grew stronger. The hissing roar of the fire, coupled with the sweep of the wind and the noise of the surf on the beach just below, made the spectacle at once grotesque and eerie.

By 9:00 o'clock, all that remained of the handsome and extensive structure was a huge mass of blazing, red refuse, made doubly weird by the two chimneys which rose high in the air and the scorched pine trees which huddled about the fiery knoll.

A piece of apparatus had come over from Sconset to lend possible aid, but there was nothing within the power of the firemen who were first on hand, or who arrived shortly after, to prevent the complete engulfing of the place by the flames.

The guest house and a large garage—which also houses sleeping quarters—were saved by the fact that the wind was blowing toward the beach, and the firemen stood by with booster lines to wet down the surrounding trees, which, once ablaze, could easily have spread the flames to these buildings.

The "all out" signal was sounded at 10:00 p. m., but the department had relays of men on hand during the remainder of the night to guard against any possible spread of the fire from the ruins.

The Coghill residence was one of the most unique structures ever built on Nantucket. Situated on the east shore of the island, a few hundred yards to the north of Quidnet, it was built on a knoll overlooking the beach at a point where the shore formed a small head-land, thus affording a fine view toward Squam on the one hand and Sachacha on the other.

The main dwelling was started in 1936. Since that time, Mr. Coghill, a retired New York architect and investment broker, had added a variety of additions, both above ground and directly into the bluff. The most remarkable of these innovations, perhaps, was the beach house, reached by a 20-ft. tunnel from the main portion of the house. This addition was built practically into the surf, and contained a completely equipped kitchen and other living quarters.

The main house faced the ocean, with two glass-enclosed hallways leading into it from a large porch, the latter commanding the full sweep of the shore. From the entrance halls, one came into a large pine-panelled room, where a huge white fireplace was placed between a pair of heavy plate glass windows which commanded a sea-view most effectively.

The dining room was to the right and contained, among other items, an especially attractive display of old silver and glass. A corner cupboard with glass shelves contained a collection that showed to good effect with its unusual lighting.

A panelled study and a little hall were off the dining room, the hall leading to the kitchen. An office, with glass walls and roof, also occupied this portion of the house.

The kitchen was equipped with all manner of electric conveniences, and besides two refrigerators had a separate deep-freeze compartment.

On the south-west side were the bedrooms, two baths and a conservatory. The latter was built in two levels, the lower leading directly to the driveway, which in turn curved through a grove of pines.

One of the baths had a passageway leading under the bluff out to the beach. A large cedar clothes closet was situated just off the other bathroom. Both the baths and the closet were heated by an ingenious system designed by Mr. Coghill.

Perhaps the most unique of the many features of the dwelling was the "secret staircase," which led from the living room down into a library and a recreation room. By pushing at a bench at the further wall of the living room, the wall panels revolved, revealing a staircase leading down to the rooms below. In turn, the library and recreation room had passageways allowing egress to the garage or guest house or, through a tunnel, to the beach house.

The library, with its many valuable volumes, and the recreation-room with its varied collections, were both destroyed.

The two adjacent buildings, which contained a guest house and a garage, together with servants' quarters, etc., were not a victim to the blaze.

Damage is estimated at \$75,000, the highest loss in the last century, according to the Brock Agency, which held the insurance on the property.

An ironic feature of the fire was the fact that a large swimming pool, constructed a few years ago, had been drained a few days before, preparatory to being painted. This pool measures 15 by 30 feet, with a depth graduated from 4 to 8 feet, and is supplied by salt water pumped from the ocean. It was enclosed by glass, with copper piping along its sides.

Had this pool been filled, the firemen would have had a good chance to bring the flames under control, notwithstanding the terrific start it had gained by the time the pumpers had raced to the scene.

It was at the Coghill residence that the British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks and Mrs. Franks and their two daughters spent the month of August of this year.

JANUARY 1, 1949.

Early Evening Fire Seriously Damaged Nantucket Kitchen.

A fire originating in or near an oil stove, early Tuesday evening, did extensive damage to the ell kitchen of Mrs. Charles A. Selden, on Liberty street. The Fire Department was summoned by telephone in a call from Mrs. George MacDonald, who saw the heavy smoke rolling out of the kitchen door of the Selden home just across the street. Mrs. Selden had called to young Gardner MacDonald to summon his father, as the oil stove was smoking. Mrs. MacDonald investigated and, quickly realizing the situation, telephoned the Central Fire Station.

One pumper responded to the call, and three blows were sounded on the fire horn. When the apparatus arrived the crew promptly extinguished the flames, but the smoke and heat had created extensive damage. In order to allow the fumes and heat—which had accumulated under the low ceiling—to escape, it was necessary to knock out one window and sash completely.

Fortunately, the door leading from the kitchen into the main part of the house had been closed by Mrs. Selden, so that the flames did not work their way into the main part of the dwelling.

Displaying the marked calmness and presence of mind which is characteristic of her, Mrs. Selden remained in her smoke-filled house until the fire apparatus arrived. She was then persuaded to step into the apartment of her neighbor, Mrs. Guibord, whose home adjoins "Seldenshall".

Although the fire has ruined the interior of the kitchen—only recently renovated—the many friends of Mrs. Selden will be glad to learn that she has not suffered from the shock of the experience, and that the main portion of her fine old home was not injured. The damage to the kitchen, however, is extensive, with \$1000 estimated as the structural loss, and \$500 in damage to the contents.

May 27, 1950



Photo by Dick Marshall

AIR VIEW SHOWS FIRE THREATENING TO SWEEP THROUGH PINES TO THE AIRPORT.

From the air, one was able to get a clear idea of the nature of the extensive fire of Sunday, July 24, 1949. Off the left edge of this splendid photo the fire originated in the pines on the Fair Grounds road, spread east-southeast, threatening houses, until it jumped the Old South Road at the State Forest line. Its advance on the Airport was checked by the fire-fighters aided by the shifting wind. Describing a rude half-circle, it burned its way through Hinsdale to the State Road, where it leaped the tarred highway and spread northeast into the scrub growth and heath, where it was stopped.

Island Pinelands Swept By Fire of Major Proportions.

What developed into the worst out-of-town fire in twenty years broke out shortly after 1:00 p. m. Sunday afternoon in the pines just off the Fairgrounds road only a mile and a half from the town.

For more than eight hours, the fire—sweeping fiercely through the pines and underbrush—raged out of control. The forest and bushes, as dry as tinder from the long drought, served as ideal fuel for the flames which roared unchecked through an area of approximately 1300 hundred acres before it was brought under control by wearied bands of fire-fighters of all ages.

Describing a huge half-circle, the fire swept southeast from the Fairgrounds Road, threatening houses in the vicinity, spread into the white pines of the State Forest, jumped the Old South Road in three places—being a wall of flame as it leaped the gully below Hinsdale; went up the road on both sides towards the old Fish farm, thence curving eastward into the pine grove, to eventually arrive at the State road and the Airport road. It followed the valley to roar across the State Road and, sweeping past the tar pit camp took a northeast course to finally burn its way into the commons toward the Sauls Hills area—where it was checked at midnight.

But the burned area contained a number of incipient fires, which kept breaking out, requiring constant patrolling and various calls upon the Fire Department and volunteers. On Tuesday afternoon, eight separate fires broke out, in some places a mile apart. Chief Cartwright, taking no chances, immediately had an emergency

alarm of seven blows sounded on the fire horn, and the volunteers hastily assembled on the Square and in front of the central station were taken to the various scenes of the blazes. A hard fight was required to subdue the flames in several places, especially at the State highway. The Young home on the Old South Road was again threatened.

Scattered showers on Monday failed to bring any relief to the parched trees and vegetation, and the night patrols were called upon to check a number of blazes. Next morning, the department sent a pumper to wet down a large patch of mealy plum and bayberry in the Saul Hills area.

That such a conflagration should have been caused through the carelessness of a visitor to the island is the unfortunate truth, but how anyone residing in the east could not have been aware of the extensive drought is strange. The party responsible had not been on the island long when his thoughtlessness touched off the blaze. But it is still unexplainable how anyone could have selected such a place of potential fire menace as the scene for a picnic.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Tillstrand, of New York City, had come to Nantucket to spend a week. Going out along the Fairgrounds Road, they selected a spot in the pines just off the road a short distance beyond the property of Parker W. Gray, but on the opposite side of the road. Here, in a little clearing, matted with pine needles, a charcoal stove was lighted preparatory to cooking a steak.

The inevitable happened. The pine needles became ignited; the flames not only spread to the nearby bushes but—in one puff of smoke—leaped into the trees. The couple tried to beat it out but the entire area was a tinder

box. Mrs. Tillstrand ran to the home of Parker W. Gray and told of the fire. Mr. Gray called the Fire Department and a pumper was immediately dispatched to the scene. A few minutes later, a second piece of apparatus was called.

The wind was light at this time, from the northwest, and although the trees and grass were dry and caught fire readily, the men very nearly had the blaze under control at this point. However, a shift of wind to the southwest sent the flames roaring unchecked across the Old South Road, traveling a distance of over two miles.

The dense volume of smoke billowing into the air attracted hundreds of spectators. Mill Hill was literally thronged with people; Atlantic avenue and Sparks avenue were lined with cars. The veterans who took over traffic duties as part of the Fire and Police Patrol work, kept the stream of cars diverted from the fire areas, so that Polpis Road soon became an artery containing a long line of moving traffic.

The homes of Ruppert Warren and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Young, on Old South Road, were threatened by the blaze, and most of the furniture was removed from the Young home to save it from the flames. Although both homes were in the direct line of the fire, neither was harmed, although the burned area extends to within approximately 100 feet of Mr. Warren's house.

The work of the 'Sconset fire crew with its pumper was of considerable value at this point. Deputy Chief Ernest Coffin and his men responded as the smoke grew large in the area. The crew was composed of Ken-

neth Coffin, John Santos, Kenneth Eldridge and Victor Reed. Working the pumper judiciously (it being the only one on the island at the time which could pump while under way) the 'Sconseters worked hard to check the flames threatening the Warren house and hen yards.

About 4 p. m. the fire had come very near to the Nantucket Airport, and was raging on both sides of Old South Road and the Siasconset Road. At this time Fire Chief Cartwright declared the fire to be out of control, and through the local police and others, requested Airport Manager Jean Cook to telephone Otis Field for aid. Manager Cook asked Otis Field to send down planes equipped with facilities for dropping chemicals on the flames from the air.

As it turned out, the chemicals

were unobtainable, and Otis Field instead sent four C-54 transport planes to the island loaded with men and equipment. Two R4D transport planes also were flown to Nantucket from Quonset Point Naval Station, likewise loaded with men and fire-fighting equipment, and one plane came from Squantum. Brooms, hose, shovels and water cans were unloaded from the military planes and trucked to the points where they were needed by local truckmen, Coast Guard and the Airport Trucks.

Shortly after the fire started, Lester Bachman, head of the local CAA station at the airport, reported to Boston Air Traffic Control that there was a possibility that the airport station might be cut off the air because the power lines might go down. The local CAA station reported the progress of the fire to Boston ATC throughout the afternoon until the telephone line was finally burned out about 4:00 p. m.

At that time, Bruce Arthur, manager of the Nantucket Cranberry Co., and one of the CAA men went in search of an emergency electric generator. Through the kindness of Mr. Jennings, who is a summer resident of Pocomo, a small generator was obtained and the station was returned to the air after only a short period. Mr. Jennings offered the men the auxiliary power plant of his home, and the generator was installed and the station returned to the air in a matter of minutes after their return to the airport. Northeast Airlines also benefited from the use of the generator which allowed their air-ground radio system to be used.

The CAA radio station was the only direct means of communication the airport had after the telephone and teletype lines went down, for travel by automobile along the Siasconset or Old South Roads was impossible, and it took nearly an hour to get to town over the rutted roads to Surfside.

It was unfortunate that no means of communication with the fire fighters was possible, for planes circling over the fire area spotted many "hot spots" and relayed this information to the CAA station.

The main blaze was under control Sunday evening, but several areas which were smoldering broke out during the week. The rainfall on Monday afternoon was too slight to do any real good, unfortunately, and the fire patrol was kept busy.

It is impossible to estimate just how many persons were engaged in battling the fire, Sunday afternoon, for almost everyone lent a hand in one way or another. Approximately 90 men were flown down by the Air Force and Navy, and together with the local Coast Guardsmen and volunteer civilian fire-fighters the total must have been over 2000 persons.

E. Ormand Dottridge, District Fire Warden for the Cape and Islands, flew to Nantucket during Sunday afternoon to see the local situation at first-hand. Tuesday evening the boat brought two State fire patrol cars, a small brush-breaker and a tank truck to assist the local fighters. The state men did not take charge of the fire, but were on hand to assist Chief Cartwright wherever they could.

Otis Field Air Force Base sent six "handie-talkies", very small radio transmitter-receivers to the island on Tuesday for the use of the fire fighters. These worked out well for calling the patrolling trucks to points where the blaze had broken out, and it was unfortunate that "handie-talkies" were not available during Sunday afternoon.

Tuesday afternoon, the emergency call "7" was sounded on the fire alarm, signalling an emergency. The fire had once again sprung up, and was again threatening the vicinity of Roger Young's home on Old South Road. At the same time, approximately seven other blazes had broken out. Hundreds of persons answered the emergency call, assisting those on duty and preventing the smaller fires from growing in intensity. Throughout the entire period that the fire was being fought, the close cooperation between the Fire Department and the volunteer fire fighters was apparent. Many of Nantucket's summer visitors lent a hand in combatting the blaze, and their assistance was much appreciated by the local fire fighters.

Wednesday afternoon three more blazes sprang up, and the fire department, and the two State fire trucks as well as the volunteers were kept busy to keep them from spreading. The entire area will no doubt be smoldering for many days to come.

Sunday afternoon the fire fighters were provided with sandwiches and coffee by Allen's, the Upper Deck, the Harbour House, the Green Coffee Pot, the Boat House, the Opera House, the Spa, First National Stores, and Ashley's Market. Trucks and men were donated by the Island Service Company, Irving Soverino and Wally's Transportation. Innumerable private cars were driven through the smoke and flames taking food to those battling the fires and transporting firefighters from one point to another.

In the thick of the battle, Sunday afternoon, one of the Air Force men engaged in fighting the fire fell and twisted a ligament in his leg. He was flown back to Otis Field for hospitalization. He was the only person receiving a serious injury during the entire time the fire was being fought.

It is estimated that the fire burned over an area of between 1200 and 1500 acres. The burned area will be accurately measured by state officials as soon as the fire has been declared officially out. A great many of Nantucket's famed "Cathedral Pines" fell victim to the blaze, and the area of burned scrub pine and brush is almost unbelievable.

The Telephone Company deserves a great deal of credit for the manner in which they handled the situation caused when the large cable along the Siasconset Road melted, Sunday afternoon, completely cutting off all service to the Airport and Sconset. Sunday evening the Massachusetts Steamship Authority held the boat at Woods Hole, to allow a cable truck and crew to board, and by working all night the men had service restored to Sconset by 2:00 a. m., Monday morning, and by 5:00 a. m. the service was restored to the Airport. A total of 20 telephone men were brought to the island to supplement the local crews, and the local manager, Harold Morris, estimates that approximately 65,000 feet of wire was strung during the period in order to rewire the circuits.

The guard rails on the Sconset Road were badly burned when the fire jumped the road, and repairs have been made by John Putterick and his men.

Special mention should be made of the excellent work done by Mike Todd, with his bulldozer, Walter Barrett, operating the Nantucket Construction Company bulldozer, and Lionel Starr, using the Airport bulldozer. These men worked in many cases in the midst of the flames, digging firebreaks with the machines and often effectively stopping the fires. One of the most noticeable instances of this is the place where the flames had jumped the Siasconset Road and started over Saul's Hills.

Wednesday evening the steamer brought another State brush-breaker to the Island on the steamer to aid in the battle against the still-smoldering fires, and later that night a Coast Guard vessel landed the large bulldozer owned by Turner & Brievogel, of Falmouth. This large bulldozer was used to clear an area around the still-smoldering fires and thus prevent them from spreading.

Sunday's fire is undoubtedly the worst that Nantucket has experienced since the fire on the Commons on August 3, 1929. This fire, which burned for over a week, covered an area of over 6000 acres.

Fire Sweeps Shop Of Island Lightship Basket Craftsman, Threatening Livelihood

The livelihood of Mitchell Ray, 83-year-old maker of thousands of the familiar lightship basket for visitors and Islanders received a setback when fire of undetermined origin yesterday noon enveloped the quarters of his craft creations—a one-room shed building at the dead end of Starbuck Court.

"Mitchie", as he is known to everybody, himself might have been a victim. Usually, he takes a nap about noon time at the shed but yesterday Miss Sadie Johnson at New Dollar Lane where he makes his home asked him to change his shirt as he was about to return to Starbuck Court. He did so and remained to rest at the house instead.

It was Mrs. William Vooneveld, a neighbor who telephoned firemen when she saw smoke from her window billowing from the shed. Her husband who was at lunch in the meanwhile, played a garden hose on the flames.

Firemen arrived speedily and a line from a pumper on Pleasant Street was run down the lane. The blaze was out about 30 minutes later.

Mr. and Mrs. Voorneveld praised Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright and his men for their speed in getting to the scene and the efficiency

with which they combatted the blaze that posed a threat to homes in the neighborhood.

Chief Cartwright estimated damage to the building at \$300 and to contents at \$200, none of it covered by insurance. About 12 or 13 of "Mitchie's" baskets, worth about \$12 each, were lost in the blaze but four others are salvageable.

"Mitchie" distraught by his loss, said he had left the building just a few moments before the fire broke out. He thought some children might have entered later and started the blaze accidentally but Chief Cartwright said there is no definite evidence yet as to how the fire started.

Friends have offered help to "Mitchie" in rebuilding the structure but others are doubtful that it is now worth repairing.

Aug. 22, 1953

The indomitable basket maker, who has been at it 50 years like his father and grandfather before him, added as he poked about the wreckage, "Just the same, nothing ever bothers me."

Chief Cartwright said the damage totted up to \$500, including \$200 for contents. These included several radio sets—since the handicrafter is a great baseball fan though he has trouble in hearing—a number of baskets and a lot of rattan, which he gets from Asia.

The southern end of the shop was gutted. The roof stayed on, badly charred, but a whale on the weather vane had its tail burned off. Mr. Ray boards out on Mill Street but spends much time in the shop. He figured he lost five baskets in all by theft and fire.

Chief Cartwright recalled another fire in the shop, about 20 years ago. The Firemen's Association had had a dance the night before and some of the boys stayed up all night while others didn't feel much like working when the alarm came in. All turned to, however, and saved the building.

Aug. 22, 1953

Incendiaries Are Blamed For "Mitchie" Ray Fire.

The possibility that youthful firebugs set a blaze which partly destroyed the famous basket-making workshop of Mitchell Ray in Starbuck Court, Thursday noon, is still being probed by the Nantucket police. Mr. Ray, who is 83, charged that three unidentified children were seen running away with three of his baskets just before the fire.

"They wanted to get me out of the way," he stated, without bitterness, as he stood surveying the charred ruin of half his one-story wooden building. Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright and his men, who had no great difficulty weaving their way down the long, narrow lane, made one of the most expert stops in the history of the department. The blaze might well have spread to other ancient homes and structures in the vicinity.

Mr. Ray admitted that he nearly did "get out of the way" in the sense of being a victim of death by burning. He left the picturesque little two-room workshop to change his shirt at 12, a time when he often takes a nap there, and the alarm came in at 12:20, bringing half the town to the scene.

"I saw those kids running away just before the fire," he stated. "I yelled after them, 'Stop, you scoundrels'. But they didn't stop and I don't know them. Looked like girls."

July 20, 1949

Night Fire Destroyed Coghill Residence at Quidnet.

In the most disastrous fire in recent years, the handsome residence of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Coghill, at Quidnet, was completely destroyed by flames on Wednesday evening. The large dwelling, with its many elaborate interior appointments, fully equipped with modern conveniences and many unique devices, its furnishings, including numerous collectors' items, its library and conservatory, were entirely consumed by the flames.

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The main dwelling was started in 1936. Since that time, Mr. Coghill, a retired New York architect and investment broker, had added a variety of additions, both above ground and directly into the bluff. The most remarkable of these innovations, perhaps, was the beach house, reached by a 20-ft. tunnel from the main portion of the house. This addition was built practically into the surf, and contained a completely equipped kitchen and other living quarters.

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One of the baths had a passageway leading under the bluff out to the beach. A large cedar clothes closet was situated just off the other bathroom. Both the baths and the closet were heated by an ingenious system designed by Mr. Coghill.

Perhaps the most unique of the many features of the dwelling was the "secret staircase," which led from the living room down into a library and a recreation room. By pushing at a bench at the further wall of the living room, the wall panels revolved, revealing a staircase leading down to the rooms below. In turn, the library and recreation room had passageways allowing egress to the garage or guest house or, through a tunnel, to the beach house.

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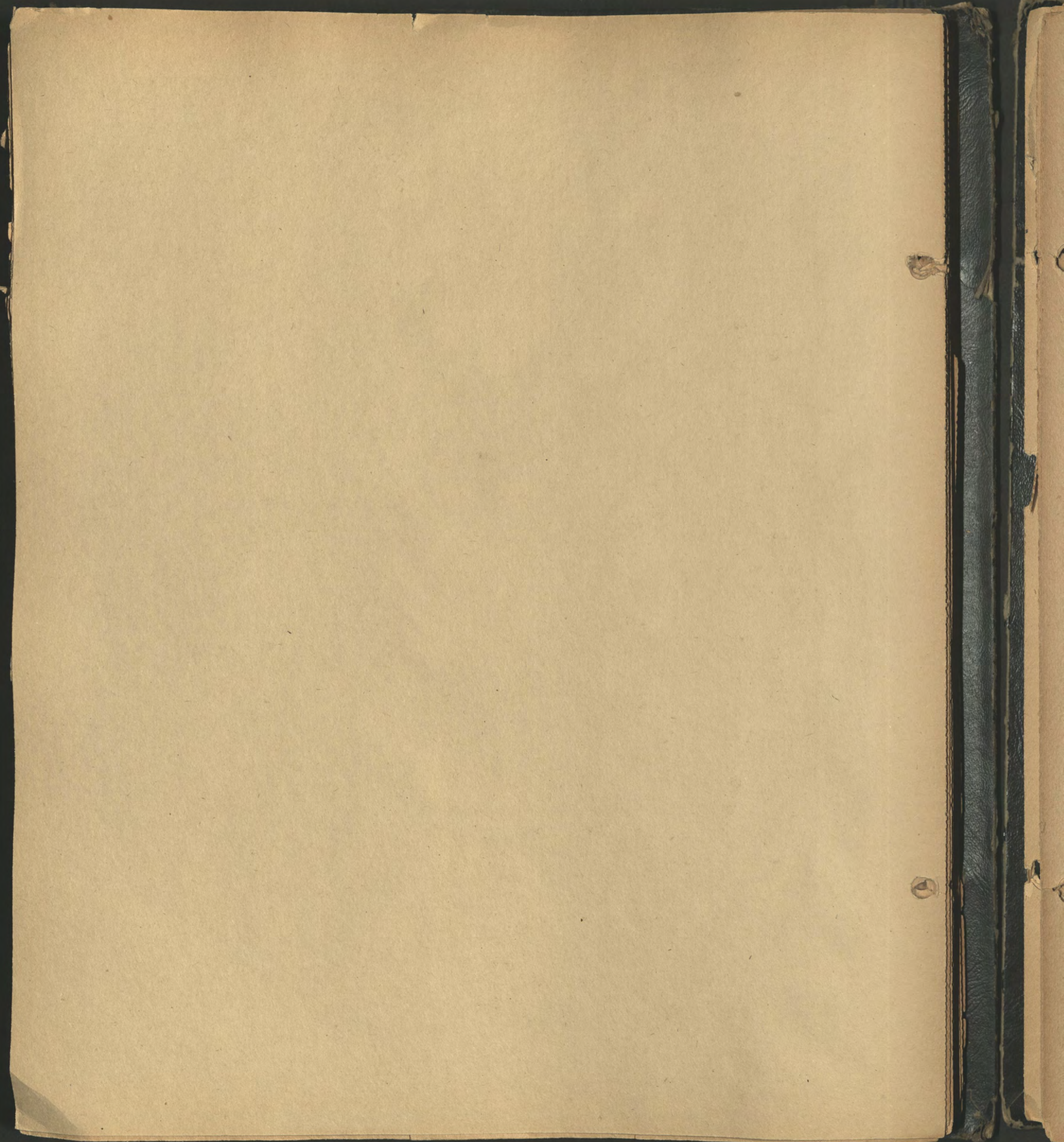
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An ironic feature of the fire was the fact that a large swimming pool, constructed a few years ago, had been drained a few days before, preparatory to being painted. This pool measures 15 by 30 feet, with a depth graduated from 4 to 8 feet, and is supplied by salt water pumped from the ocean. It was enclosed by glass, with copper piping along its sides.

Had this pool been filled, the firemen would have had a good chance to bring the flames under control, notwithstanding the terrific start it had gained by the time the pumpers had raced to the scene.

It was at the Coghill residence that the British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks and Mrs. Franks and their two daughters spent the month of August of this year.

Jan. 1, 1949



NANTUCKET'S FIRES.

A Record of Conflagrations and Alarms of Fire on the Island of Nantucket From 1736 to Date

Following is a list of fires occurring on the island of Nantucket since the year 1735. The record up to 1876 was compiled by the late Timothy S. Chase, but the list since that date has been made up by reference to our files and from records of the fire department, and it will be found substantially correct. The complete record covers a period of one hundred and sixty-seven years, and it will be seen that the fires which have occurred in that time have destroyed property to a total value of about \$2,500,000, a very small portion of which has been covered by insurance. The list shows a total of two hundred and twenty-seven fires, all occurring since the fire of 1846 having been confined to one building.

- 1736. Friends' Meeting House, just west of the Elihu Coleman farm house, now owned by the Hosier brothers. Totally consumed. Loss, \$400.
- 1759. Light house on Brant Point.
- 1762. Peter Barnard's house. Loss, \$400.
- 1765. Mill. Loss, \$500.
- 1769. Several buildings on South Wharf. Loss, \$11,000.
- Buildings on Brant Point. Loss, \$1000.
- 1774. Enoch Gardner's barn. Loss, \$100.
- 1779. Two barns. Loss, \$300.
- 1782. Light house at Brant Point. Loss, \$1000.
- 1786. Light house at Great Point. Loss, \$1000.
- Nicholas Meader's house at Sesachacha. Loss, \$100.
- 1799. Isaac Folger's shop. Loss, \$1500.
- 1802. Nathan Beebe's bake-house. Loss, \$2000.
- 1810. George Russell's shop. Loss, \$350.
- 1811. Matthew Myrick's rope-walk. Loss, \$3000.
- 1812. Samuel Swain's house at Philip's Run. Loss, \$200.
- Several buildings at South Wharf. Loss, \$6000.
- 1814. George Myrick's farm house. Loss, \$300.
- 1816. Light house at Great Point. Loss, \$500.
- 1820. Jethro Dunham's house on Tuckernuck. Loss, \$400.
- 1822. January 5th. Building of Daniel Jones.
- November 30th. Latham Gardner's house.
- 1823. Thomas & Henry Starbuck's shop. Loss \$100.
- March 15th. House of Seth Russell.
- November 25th. Store of Henry Starbuck.
- 1822 or 1823. Slight fire at the house of Moses Harris, at Newtown.
- 1825. May 5th. House of Edward Clark.
- 1827. House of Jedidah Lawrence, corner of Main and Howard streets, slightly damaged in the basement.
- 1828. December. Paint shop of Thomas Smith, corner of Water and Cambridge streets, damaged about \$1000.
- 1830. January 30th. An alarm of fire in the evening, caused by the burning out of a chimney. Mr. William Dunham was instantly killed by being caught between an engine and a post in front of the house now occupied by Mr. George W. Burdick.
- 1831. December. An alarm of fire caused by the burning out of the chimney of the house of Abijah Gardner.
- 1831. Isaac Coffin's barn on Charter street, totally destroyed. Loss, \$900.
- 1834. The carpenter's shop of John R. Macy, on Ash street, was burned during the summer. Loss about \$800.
- 1833. May 7th. The house of Seth Pinkam, at Siasconset, was burned.
- House of Richard Mitchell. Incendiary.
- 1834. January 20th. The store attached to the dwelling house of Mrs. Elizabeth Chase, where the Coffin school now stands, was badly damaged. Loss to store and goods, about \$1000.
- 1835. July 28th. The cooper's shop of Mr. Charles C. Morris, head of Pearl street, was slightly damaged on the roof. Loss, about \$100.
- 1836. January 2d. The house of James Athearn, Jr., Centre street, was slightly damaged in the basement.
- May 10th. Washington House, kept by Elisha Starbuck, the house of Francis F. Hussey, the large three-story building on the corner of Main and Union streets, and the building of Francis F. Hussey on Union street, were destroyed; the buildings covering the land east of the store now occupied by Asa C. Jones to the land of Dr. J. B. King, on Union street. The loss was estimated at \$15,000.
- November 4th. An alarm of fire from tar barrels burning on Brant Point.
- 1837. March 13th. The house of N. Ames was slightly injured.
- October 8th. The house of Edward B. Hussey, Centre street, was totally destroyed.
- December 9th. The house of Joseph P. Sylvia, on the Hensdale farm, totally destroyed.
- 1838. June 2d. A fire broke out about 11 o'clock at night, in the lower end of the ropewalk of Joseph James, situated between Union and Washington streets, totally consuming that building, the candle factories of Daniel Jones, Philip H. Folger, Valentine Hussey, Matthew Crosby, James Athearn, and the dwellings of Harvey Crocker, James N. Bassett, Walter Folger, Jr., Thomas D. Morris, Samuel Dunham, Charles F. Gardner, William Hodges, Samuel Ames, Jabez Cushman, Jesse Crosby, the store of Gilbert Coffin, blacksmith shops of John Meader, Reuel Rawson, the boatbuilders' shops of Thomas G. Barnard, Leonard Fisher, the twine factory of Reuben R. Bunker, coopers shop of John Elkins, and in fact everything between Union street and the harbor; a locality which at that time was covered with oil factories and oil sheds. Those

who are now living, whose memory reaches back to that night, will never forget the sight of the blazing oil that covered the waters of the harbor south of Commercial wharf; nor the long tiers of iron hoops left standing in the place of the sheds stored with thousands of barrels of oil. So intense was the heat that no charred remains of anything were left; but the whole district was burnt as bare as the beach. There were over one hundred sufferers by the fire, and the loss was estimated at from \$150,000 to \$300,000.

- June 25th. Blacksmith's shop occupied by Richard Swain. Partially destroyed.
- November 21st. Alarm of fire.
- 1839. March 20th. Cromwell Barnard's barn, and five other buildings rear of the block on Orange street.
- 1840. January 12th. James Sandsbury's house at Newtown.
- January 31st. The shop of Henry Gardner, south part of the town. Slightly injured.
- October 17th. Dwelling house on Union street. Damage trifling.
- October 19th. Candle factory of James Athearn, Liberty street. Damaged slightly.
- 1841. January 5th. Alarms caused by the burning out of a chimney.
- October 12th. Small building belonging to Mrs. Eunice Lawrence, New Mill street. Total loss.
- 1842. January 29th. Building in south part of the town called Guinea, occupied as a dance hall. Totally destroyed, but no loss to the community.
- February 7th. Cooper's shop of Coffin & Gardner, near the head of South wharf. Damage trifling.
- February 22d. Lawrence & Cobb's dry goods store, where the shop of Thomas B. Paddock later stood. Damage slight.
- 1844. February 21st. Burning of the Asylum at Quaise. The buildings were totally destroyed, and ten of the inmates perished in the flames, as follows: Paul Jenkins, Jonathan Cathcart, William Holmes, Thomas Hull, William Hutchins, Abial Grew, Wealthy Swain, Phebe Jones, Sophia Beebe, Lydia Bowen.
- April. The farm house of Charles A. Burgess.
- 1846. July 13th. About 11 o'clock this evening, commenced what has since been known as the "Great Fire." It originated in the hat store of William H. Geary, where the tailor shop of G. F. Barrean later stood, and spreading up and down, burned all the buildings on the south side of Main street, between Orange street and the Straight and South wharves. Crossing Main street where the Citizens' Room was located, it spread in all directions, consuming everything east of Centre street between Main and Broad streets, the buildings on the west side of Centre street between the house of Mrs. Upham and Quince street. Crossing Broad street, it burned the fine Episcopal Church, and all buildings on the north side between that and the harbor, as also the buildings on the east side of North Water street, as far north as the new cottage of George K. Long, and several houses on the west side. Between three and four hundred buildings were burned, and property to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000 destroyed. Had the efforts to save the Methodist Church proved unavailing, the probability is that the whole northwest section of the town would have been burned.
- July 15th. An alarm of fire, caused by sparks falling on the roof of a dwelling house on Union street.
- December 12. Paint shop of John S. Thomas, on Federal street. Damage about \$1000 to building and stock.
- 1847. January 9th. An alarm caused by the burning of tar barrels on Brant Point.
- February 19th. Henry Coffin's barn, Cambridge farm. Total loss.
- 1848. February 28th. Burning out of chimneys in Miriam Prince's house, New Dollar Lane.
- March 28th. House of Thomas C. Hamblen, North shore. Partially destroyed.
- September 7th. The house of William Hadwen now occupied by Joseph S. Barney. Damage slight.
- 1849. May 1st. Levi Starbuck's barn, Fair street. Damage slight.
- May 2d. Jonathan Mooer's house, rear of the house of the late James Codd, Orange street. Damage slight.
- May 10th. Benjamin Ray's house, Pine street. Damage slight.
- Newbegins house, west of the town. Partially destroyed.
- July 18th. Mitchell & Coffin's candle factory. Very slight.
- November 24th. Peleg Macy's building head of South wharf. Damage small.
- 1850. May 14th. Shed rear of Reuben Meader's house, Orange street.
- May 28th. House of Zenas Coleman, Pearl street. Damage small.
- June 20th. Tin shop of Christopher C. Hussey, Federal street. Building and stock damaged by fire and water about \$500.
- 1851. January 25th. Alarm from burning tar barrels.
- June 3d. House of Daniel Moulton, head of Pearl street. Slight.
- November 14th. Cigar store of William M. Russell, Main street, next east of the house now owned by Mrs. Sarah M. Hallett.
- December 4th. Porch of Dennis Mullen's house, near South beach.
- 1852. July 8th. West Grammar schoolhouse, west of the town. Totally destroyed.
- 1853. May 31st. A barn near the house of Thomas Barnard, 2d, head of Lily street, caused by some small boys setting fire to shavings.
- 1854. July 5th. Charles Starbuck's barn, Squam. Total loss.
- 1855. May 13. Hezekiah Paddock's paint shop, Candle street. Damage about \$1000.
- June 3d. House of Justin Lawrence, Gay street. Slightly injured.
- September 5th. Alarm caused by a blacksmith setting tires.
- 1856. February 19th. Alarm caused by the moon shining in at the windows of the Fair street M. E. Church.
- February 26th. Frederick Arthur's barn, rear of his house, corner of Orange street and Plumb Lane. Slight damage.

1858. October 11th. Collection of soot taking fire in the chimney of South Grammar Schoolhouse.
1859. June 30th. Dwelling house occupied by George Barrett, head of Main street. Totally consumed.
- July 16th. Cooper's shop of Freeman Parker. Slight.
- August 23d. Alarm caused by burning out a chimney.
- September 20th. Burning of the shoe store of A. D. Towle, Centre street block. Store badly damaged, and the goods of George R. Folger, who occupied the adjoining building, greatly injured by smoke.
- October 12th. Seth Clark house, corner of Union and Flores streets. Totally destroyed.
- October 28th. Burning of ship Planter, on the railway at Brant Point.
1860. February 13th. False alarm.
- February 17th. Alarm from burning out of a chimney.
- March 5th. Incendiary fire in the barn of Isaiah Nickerson. Put out without damage.
- March 9th. Burning of a small building west of the town. Incendiary.
- March 12th. David Folger's cooper's shop. Loss between \$3000 and \$4000. Incendiary.
- March 16th. Burning of John Winn's barn on Grove Lane, west of the town. Incendiary. Totally destroyed.
- April 3d. Building belonging to Joseph Starbuck. Incendiary. Damage trifling.
- April 14th. Barn of Charles H. Dunham, head of Old North wharf. Damage slight.
- May 17th. Alarm caused by the burning of some stubble near Asylum.
- July 29th. Burning of beach grass, northwest of the town.
- September 25th. Alarm caused by the ringing of the bell at an unusual hour.
- September 27th. Burning of the Constant Randall house, west of the town. Incendiary.
- November 1st. Burning of the barn on the farm of Charles C. Folger, just west of the town. Totally destroyed, together with hay, farming implements, a horse and several cows. Incendiary.
- December 3d. House of David G. Hussey. Damage slight.
1861. May 18th. Alarm; cause unknown.
- September 29th. Barn belonging to Shubael Clark, rear of his house on Pearl street. Partially burned.
- December 16th. Burning out of a chimney.
1862. January 31st. Burning of a barn belonging to Allen Smith, in his lot just south of the town.
- March 25th. Barn belonging to Wesley Berry, south part of the town.
- September 5th. Burning of the barns of George Creasy and George Coffin, between York and Dover streets. Totally destroyed.
- September 18th. House rear of Union street, belonging to John Williams. Totally destroyed.
- October 7th. Burning of house on New street, belonging to Margaret Lewis. Partially destroyed.
- October 14th. Alarm from unknown cause.
1863. February 6th. Thomas Coffin's house corner of Milk and Vestal streets. Damage slight.
- March 14th. Burning of a house in the south part of the town occupied by Julia Smith. Totally consumed.
- March 18th. False alarm.
- March 20th. Partial burning of a building on Broad street, now occupied by Dr. F. A. Ellis.
- March 28th. Burning of a portion of the jail. Slight.
- March 29th. False alarm.
- August 27th. Alarm; cause unknown.
- September 5th. Burning out of a chimney.
- October 17th. Alarm; cause unknown.
1864. August. Barn of Henry I. Defriez. Slightly injured.
1865. April 9th. Alarm from burning of stubble west of the town.
- April 10th. Alarm from burning out of a chimney.
- April 19th. Burning of beach grass, northwest of the town.
- November 6th. House belonging to Cyrus Cooper, southwest part of the town. Slightly injured.
- November 12th. House belonging to Shubael Clark, Pearl street. Badly injured.
1866. January 30th. Alarm of fire caused by the burning of a bed in William Hussey's house, Quince street.
- March 28th. Farm house of William T. Swain, on what was known as the Albert C. Folger farm.
- October 24th. Henry P. Olin's boot and shoe store, corner of Main and Orange streets.
- November 9th. Alarm from burning beds at house of Reuben M. Coffin, Liberty street.
1867. October 15th. Alarm from burning corn-stalks on the farm of George C. Gardner.
- November 10th. Burning of George Clark's stable, with horses and carriages, water mill of Steamboat Company, etc.
- November 16th. Dwelling house on the farm formerly owned by David Joy Starbuck, in Squam.
1868. March 7th. House of Mr. Paul, at Siasconset. Slightly injured.
1870. April 6th. Try works on Commercial Wharf. Trifling damage.
- April 17th. Barn of John Winn, Grove Lane. Totally consumed.
1871. January 13th. House of Martin Terry, south part of town. Entirely consumed.
- July 9th. Barn on the estate of Uriah Gardner, northwest part of the town. A total loss.
1872. February 22d. Building of Benjamin W. Chase, rear of his house on Pearl street.
- April 12th. Barn of John M. Gardner, rear of his house on Liberty street.

- April 24th. House corner of Pleasant and Summer streets, occupied by Thomas W. Barrally. Slightly damaged.
1873. August 3d. Shoe factory of Mitchell & Hayden, just west of the town, entirely consumed, together with stock, machinery, etc. Loss estimated at \$18,000.
1874. March 7th. Alarm from bonfire at the head of Miacomet pond.
- August 31st. Try works of D. W. & R. E. Burgess, at their farm at Shimmo.
1875. January 15th. Alarm of fire from the North Church Vestry.
- October 2d. Paul Clisby's barn, at Shimmo. Total loss.
1876. January 16th. Dwelling house of the late Gilbert Coffin, corner of Main and Winter streets. Damage estimated about \$2000.
1877. January 4th. Slight fire in shop of John Gray, Orange street. Defective flue. Damage slight. No alarm.
- March 8th. Slight fire in house occupied by George Francis, Beaver street, 10 a. m., caused by matches. Damage about \$100.
- March 26th. False alarm at 1.15 a. m. A light in house of George Winslow, West Centre street.
1878. February 14. Slight fire on the roof of John McNinney's house.
- June 26th. Slight fire at Frederick Gardner's blacksmith shop, Old North wharf.
- July 30th. An alarm caused by burning of a chimney flue in house occupied by John S. Cathcart, Beaver street.
- October 10th. Fire in south part of town caused by burning soot in chimney. No general alarm.
1879. April 13th. Alarm sounded at 8 a. m. House corner Dover and Union street occupied by Henry C. Holmes. Cause, children playing with matches. Damage small.
- June 5th. Slight blaze in store of T. H. Soule, jr., Main street. No alarm.
- August 4th. Slight fire in house of William P. Sandsbury, Union street.
- August 30th. False alarm.
1880. February 17th. A slight blaze at Sea Foam House, Wauwinet. Damage, \$50.
- August 3d. Fire in cottage of Rev. W. H. Fish, at Cliff. Loss slight.
- November 3d. Railroad ties. No alarm.
1881. January 18th. Polpis School House. Supposed incendiary. Value of building, \$1000.
1881. January 28th. Carr house near Asylum totally destroyed.
1882. February 19th. Slight fire in house of Charles O'Connor caused by defective flue. No alarm.
- May 4th. Massachusetts Humane Society's building, Coskata. Took fire from burning beach grass. Totally destroyed. Loss \$500.
1882. August 31st. Alarm sounded 2 a. m. Burned roof of Hall house, East Chestnut street. Damage about \$500. Hydrants used first time, with a direct pressure seven minutes after alarm was given. Defective chimney.
1883. Alarm at midnight caused by bonfire outside town limits.
- July 5th. Alarm 10.58 p. m. Barn of F. J. Crosby. Entirely destroyed.
- November 28th. Simmon's blacksmith shop. Caused by spark from chimney.
1884. January 25th. Fire in M. F. Coleman's store, Centre street. Loss slight.
- March 31st. Alarm at 12.05 a. m. Scow at Straight wharf, loaded with lime for Nantucket Hotel.
- August 9th. Walker house, 'Sconset, at 6.30 p. m. Inside considerably burned. Loss \$500. Baptism of this department.
1885. June 22nd. Hayden's Bath House. Defective chimney.
- July 3d. 1.30 a. m. Caused by bonfire at Brant Point.
- October 13th. 9.30 a. m. W. H. H. Smith's stable. Caused by hot ashes being emptied into street and spark blowing onto roof. Loss slight.
- December 21st. 12.55 p. m. Charles McCann's house. Defective chimney.
1885. July 5. 12 m. Caused by firecrackers at Ann Swain's, Centre street. Roof burned slightly.
- August 3d. A false alarm caused by blazing pine cones in a fireplace at George G. Fish's house, Broad street.
- November 3d. Charles E. Hayden's bath house, Clean Shore. Incendiary.
- November 6th. Fire in chimney on Sarah Swain's house, corner Centre and Hussey streets. No alarm.
1887. February 28th. The alarm was occasioned by a slight blaze in a hen house belonging to M. F. Freeborn on Milk street. Small damage.
1888. January 29th. Barn belonging to James Collins estate near Prospect Hill Cemetery. Totally destroyed. Incendiary.
- February 23d. Mission School, Orange street. Slight. Incendiary.
1889. October 1st. Mary Spicer dwelling, North Liberty street. Incendiary. Damage \$275.
- December 27th. U. S. Life-saving Station at Muskeget. Defective chimney. Loss \$5000.
1890. February 20th. George W. Flagg house, Academy hill. Defective fire place. Slight damage.
- March 20th. John Winn house. Defective chimney. Damage \$15.
- July 12th. Nantucket Hotel. Defective chimney. Damage \$100.
- December 30th. James A. Holmes' house, Mt. Vernon street. Defective chimney. Damage slight.
1891. February 4th. Alarm caused by explosion of lamp in Dr. C. D. Marsh's house, Main street, at 8.15 p. m. No damage.
- February 25th. Upper part of house of Mrs. A. M. Joy, near Prospect street. Damage \$300.
- August 23d. Barn on O'Connell farm struck by lightning about midnight. Totally destroyed.
1892. June 16th. Sea Cliff Inn. Caused by a pot of fat igniting in the kitchen. Damage slight.
- August 10th. Grass in the house yard of Benjamin F. Taylor. Slight damage to house.
- August 21st. House of John R. Sandsbury on the north side of Tuckernuck, burned to the ground.

1893. May 31st. John Harps' grocery store. Cause unknown. Loss \$100.
September 5th. House of Madeline C. Mixer. Accidental. Damage \$25.
1894. February 23d. Sparks from chimney of North Church vestry. Quickly subdued. No general alarm.
March 31st. Two gunning houses on the island of Muskeget. Totally destroyed. Supposed incendiary.
May 17th. Pump house connected to house of Mrs. Jane Starbuck, New Mill street. No alarm.
1896. January 9th. Fire in the stable of Herbert C. Smith, Steamboat wharf. One horse perished. Loss \$1800.
June 5th. False alarm caused by burning stubble.
August 31st. Grain warehouse of Capt. W. T. Swain, Straight wharf. About 350 bushels of corn damaged. Spark from steam fire-engine set fire to W. F. Codd's building, but was put out without any damage.
September 2d. Springfield House annex, North Water street. Damage \$500.
September 11th. Blaze on roof of house occupied by Frank Nickerson, near railroad crossing, Orange street. Damage slight.
December 22d. Alarm caused by fire in store occupied by E. H. Swan, Centre street. Cause defective flue. Loss on stock, \$600. Building, \$250.
1897. February 2d. The large livery stable at head of Steamboat wharf, belonging to Covil & Pease, was totally destroyed, together with its contents, consisting of six horses, a number of carriages and harnesses, and a quantity of grain. Loss estimated at \$3000. Insurance on building \$1000; on contents \$500. Cause unknown.
August 5th. Cottage of H. F. Daly at Sesachacha caught fire from defective chimney. Damage slight. Insured.
1898. April 3d. Dwelling house on Coon street, owned by Frederick W. Barnard, and occupied by D. E. Chase, caught fire from defective chimney. Damage \$25. No insurance.
October 16th. Slight blaze in dwelling house of John C. Gardner on Main street, caused by live coal falling on carpet. Damage \$150. No insurance.
1900. July 11th. Barn on farm of George E. Mooers at Polpis, containing quantity of hay, was totally destroyed. Cause unknown. Loss \$500. No insurance.
August 21st. House of James M. Ramsdell at Smith's point totally destroyed. Supposed incendiary. Loss \$150. No insurance.
August 24th. Dwelling house of Mrs. Reyot on Saraoga street, formerly known as the "Big Shop," was set on fire by some unknown person. Damage slight.
December 23d. Slight fire in the plumber shop of Rollin M. Allen on Main street, caused by an over-heated lamp. Damage \$25.
1901. April 18th. House owned by Mrs. Maria Cooney near New Mill street, occupied by family of George A. Dunham, caught fire from defective chimney. Damage mostly from water. No insurance.
April 18th. Dwelling house of Marcus Howes, occupied by Charles Ross. Explosion of lamp. Damage slight.
May 17th. Dwelling house of Mary B. Kidder on Cliff road. Over-heated lamp. Damage slight.
July 4th. Slight fire on piazza of Miss Sarah J. Baker's cottage, Sunset Heights, Siasconset.
July 17th. Fire in rear portion of store of J. Karpas, in block corner of Main and Orange streets. Cause unknown. Damage \$200. Fully insured.
1902. April 25th. Alarm for blaze in house of Dr. E. B. Coleman on Centre street, caused by ignition of drapery from a lighted candle. Damage slight. Insured.
June 28th. Fire in summer residence of H. O. Underwood at Beachside, caused by a defective chimney. Damage \$25.
December 13th. Blaze in barn of Eugene Collins on Mill street, caused by over turning of a lighted kerosene lamp. Damage \$25.
December 23d. Cottage of Dr. E. B. Coleman, which was being moved from Surfside to Beachside, was totally destroyed near Shearpen hill, together with moving timber and gear. Supposed incendiary. Loss on building \$300. No insurance.
1903. March 17th. Livery stable of William H. H. Smith on Steamboat wharf, totally destroyed, together with eleven horses and a quantity of hay and grain. Cause unknown. Loss estimated at \$4500. No insurance.

APRIL 4. 1903

Fire Facts of Fifty Years Ago.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

By the reminiscent articles in The Inquirer and Mirror, appearing the past few weeks, much valuable history has been set forth, in my opinion. I appreciate the correction in dates, made by Arthur H. Gardner in your paper of the 8th, as to certain incendiary fires in Nantucket about fifty years ago. He has the records I have only memory. He is, practically, a life-long resident of his native town. I had only the first fifteen years of my life there, and have been a non-resident for nearly forty-nine years.

As to the 'epidemic of fires' of which I wrote, he has given the exact recorded dates. I am very glad to have them. In my article I said, relying absolutely upon memory, that those fires were twice a week, on Monday and Thursday evenings. In my library I have a book which gives calendars covering a period of two hundred years, and by it the day of the week in any year comprised therein can be established. Since getting Arthur's dates I have looked the matter up and find that my memory as to days was nearly correct—they occurred on Monday and Friday evenings, except in one case, when it was on a Saturday.

Under date of February 25th, I received a letter from E. A. Darling, clerk of the Massachusetts State Prison at Charlestown, Mass., in response to one from me, from which I obtained data as to the commitment and discharge of the young men who viciously caused those fires. As a result of the "epidemic of fires," which included the "Folger cooper shop," Franklin B. Chace and Henry C. Stackpole were on June 6, 1860, sentenced for life to the Massachusetts State Prison.

Stackpole was pardoned January 21, 1863—a fact which I remember very well, but could not have given the date. He returned to his home in Nantucket, sick, as I remember, with consumption—the reason of his pardon—and lived but a short time.

Chace, although given a life sentence, was pardoned August 10, 1864. Grossly wicked were those young men, and their deeds noted were dastardly, yet I am of the opinion that they were more fascinatingly mischievous than designedly criminal.

Daniel Hart, for setting the "Folger barn" fire, was sentenced January 5, 1865, to the same prison, for a term of ten years. He was discharged November 13, 1869.

J. E. C. Farnham.
Providence, March 10, 1913.

A MAGNIFICENT PRESENT.—We had the pleasure of examining, on Thursday last, a splendid fire-trumpet, presented by the members of the engine John B. Chace, No. 4, to their worthy foreman, Capt. Charles C. Crosby, on Wednesday evening, at the headquarters of the Company.

The trumpet is of silver, gold-lined, and is handsomely ornamented with a representation of the engine, fireman's cap, belt, and other appropriate devices. It bears the following inscription: "Presented by members of Engine Co., No. 4, to Capt. Charles C. Crosby, Nantucket, Feb. 10, 1875." It was manufactured by the Taunton Silver Plate Co., and obtained for them by Mr. George W. Macy. It was presented by Mr. James A. Holmes, in a neat and appropriate speech, which was feelingly responded to by Capt. Crosby.

After the presentation, the following resolution was unanimously passed by the company:

Resolved, That we convey to George W. Macy, Esq., our sincere thanks for his kindness in obtaining the Silver Trumpet for our Captain, and our appreciation of his liberal services in connection with it.

The trumpet is on exhibition for a short time at the Express Office.

March 6, 1875

As a result of the condemnation of the Defiance No. 1 fire engine, at Siasconset, the firewards have removed her and placed the No. 7, heretofore located on Gardner street, in her place. The discarded machine has served the town for sixty years, having been brought here in 1835. As last week stated, she was formerly known as the Ocean, No. 9, and for many years occupied a location on the site of Mr. J. H. Wood's grocery store, opposite the old "Town House." Last week, when they brought the engine into town, there was a rush for the old fire buckets, which disappeared like a schooner in a fog. Several offers have been made for the old tub, but the firewards have not yet accepted any. We believe that with the passing of the Ocean, the last representative piece of apparatus contemporary with the Great Fire of 1846, has gone out of use. To replace her in 'Sconset is now the duty of the fire board, and they are already in communication with parties regarding another machine of improved construction that can be handled by a few men, and will fill the bill.

June 9, 1900

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"Wake Her Up, Boys!"

Elisha Pope Fearing Gardner, the peanut merchant of Nantucket, has handed us a thumb-worn, faded-out sheet of paper containing the records of a meeting held at the headquarters of No. 8 Engine Company in Nantucket, on the eleventh of January, 1853. Mr. Gardner was clerk of the meeting, James W. Dunham and himself being the members of the old company now living. The record of the meeting was as follows:

"At 7 o'clock the meeting was called to order by Elisha P. Gardner. The clerk being absent, a clerk pro tem was chosen. E. P. Gardner was chosen as clerk pro tem. Mr. Wm. H. Shaw made a motion that the meeting be adjourned till Saturday eve. The question was put and lost. Henry T. Hussey was then chosen chairman. Rev. Mr. Crawford was then introduced to the company, who addressed the Co., asking for funds to carpet his church. Mr. Joseph S. Barney made a motion that all those who were willing to contribute towards the church should hand it in to the chairman at the close of the meeting. The question was put and carried. Mr. Geo. Burgess then proposed Robert C. Hussey as a member of the Co. His name was put up and he was admitted. Mr. T. S. Chace then proposed Philander Coffin as a member of the Co. His name was put up and he was admitted. Mr. Geo. Burgess then made a motion that the flag staff be housed, and kept housed till spring, and then sent up. After some remarks, made by Mr. J. S. Barney, Albert Swain and Elisha P. Gardner, (Barney & Swain in the negative and Gardner in the affirmative) the question was called for, put and lost. Mr. E. P. Gardner then made a motion that the topmast be housed, the halyards reeved, and sent right up. After some remarks, by Mr. Barney against it, and Mr. Gardner for it, the question was put and lost. Mr. E. P. Gardner then made a motion that a man be hired to reeve the halyards, without sending the topmast down. The question was put and lost. Mr. Wm. H. Shaw then made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The question was put and carried, and the meeting adjourned.

Elisha P. Gardner,
Clerk, Pro tem."

As a memorial to this historic engine company, "Elisha P." has this week been circulating about town circulars which read as follows:

CELEBRATION

The members of

FOUNTAIN ENGINE CO. NO. 8

will celebrate their 75th anniversary on the second Friday of next week, by a GRAND PARADE. They will form on Swain's wharf at 4 a.m., the right resting on one another. They will start at 5 o'clock sharp, and led by Gideon's band they will march thru Robbins' ship yard and Capt. Killen's coal yard to Main street, up Main to Union, thru Union to the poor house, where a collation will be served by the inmates. They will then march thru the sewer to the fair grounds, where an oration will be delivered by the field drivers, on the past, present and future of Nantucket. They will then march thru Pleasant street to Main, down Main to the bank, where they will be met by the police and escorted to the station house. No postponement on account of the weather.

Chief Marshals,
James W. Dunham,
E. P. F. Gardner.

Presentation.

Monday, after the arrival of the steamer, the members of John B. Chace Engine Company, No. 4, were notified by crier to assemble at the headquarters, as there was business of importance to come before them. The whole company assembled in response to the unusual call. Shortly before 9 o'clock, four gentlemen entered the room, and were introduced as Foreman Edward Dyer, of Mazeppa Engine, No. 3, of Provincetown, and Ex-Foreman Lemuel Cook, 2d, Messrs. William I. Smith and Rufus W. Baker, of the same company. Foreman Collins, in concluding the introduction, said that they had something to say to the company, of which he himself was ignorant, but supposed they would all soon know. Mr. Dyer arose and said he supposed it was somewhat of a surprise to all to see him present at this time, but the object of his presence was to thank them in a substantial manner for their endeavors to make the recent visit of his company a pleasant one, and in behalf of Mr. J. T. Smith, one of the Mazeppas, presented the company with a handsome and neatly-framed transfer picture, made by a young lady of his town and framed by Mr. Smith. In concluding his remarks he called on Ex-Foreman Cook, trusting that he would aid him in addressing the meeting. The company's surprise was great, and it took them several seconds to recover from their astonishment, when they burst forth with a round of applause. But the surprise was but temporary, for Mr. Cook took the floor, and in a neat and fitting speech presented the "boys" with a handsome silver trumpet, appropriately chased, and having the inscription:

Presented to
JOHN B. CHACE ENG. CO.,
No. 4,
BY
MAZEPPA ENG. CO.,
No. 3,
OF PROVINCETOWN, MASS.,
For courtesies tendered Sept. 19, 1877.

The company appeared to be entirely overcome by this second gift, but Foreman John B. Collins responded with a few fitting words, in which he thanked the Mazeppas for their unexpected presents, assuring them that the tokens would ever be carefully preserved, while the occasion of the visits of both the Mazeppas, and the delegates then present, would ever be remembered as among the pleasantest in the company's history. He concluded by introducing Dr. A. E. Jenks, who spoke briefly, thanking the Provincetown brothers for these souvenirs, which evinced a strong feeling of friendship between the two companies, which he hoped would ever continue. The speaker received hearty applause at the conclusion of his remarks. Mr. I. H. Folger, of the *Review*, was next called upon, but his remarks were brief, he having come, as he said, "to report, and not to be reported." A vote of thanks was then tendered the Mazeppas on motion of Mr. Daniel W. Folger, after which the meeting was dismissed, the business being completed. An inspection of the trumpet and picture, was then in order, after which, singing, instrumental music by Messrs. Chace, Handy Brothers and Hull, and general chat passed away an hour very pleasantly, all of which was apparently well enjoyed by the visitors.

Nov. 3, 1877

REMINISCENCES.

Fires and Fire-Engines.

NUMBER THREE.

Fires of any magnitude were of very rare occurrence fifty years ago, although two or three had occurred some years before,—long before my recollection—as the burning of the Matthew Myrick ropewalk, and that of the blacksmiths' shops, head of South wharf. Although slight fires were more numerous than they have been of late years, yet at the first note of alarm every man in town considered himself a fireman, and rushed to the scene of danger as though the putting it out depended upon himself alone. This way of going to work constituted the Nantucket men such an efficient body of firemen, that it was a rare thing the fire ever spread beyond the building in which it originated; but as the strangers used to say, it was "scrammed" out right where it was. The fire engines of those days were hardly such nice looking machines as we are now in the habit of seeing. There was but one suction engine, and the tubs had to be filled with buckets, passed to them by rows of men, standing in line from the nearest cistern pump, while the empty buckets were hurriedly passed back by the boys, who made another k for that purpose. A constant stream of water was thus kept going into the engine, and the bars swayed by strong arms, were never permitted to rest until the last spark of the fire was extinguished. Whether the members of the engine companies ever received pay for their services, I do not know, but am inclined to think they were all volunteers. Nantucket then boasted five of these machines; the No. 1, located on Pleasant street, near Main, painted red, with 1770 in white figures on her side; the No. 2, green, bearing the date of 1763; No. 3, "Active," kept on Orange street; No. 4, "Volunteer," on Centre street; and the No. 5, "Nantucket," a new engine, with shining brass goose neck, the wonder of us boys, kept on what is now the garden of Mr. A. M. Myrick, Washington street. When the No. 1 was to come out on trial, what a time there was with the boys of the Town House school. Precisely at one o'clock, the doors of the engine house on Pleasant street swung open, and the old No. 1 came rushing out and was pulled to the cistern on Main street, the cistern house was tipped over, and two tall pumps exposed to view; the engine was filled, the hose stretched out, and the word "Play away, No. 1!" given; the bars were worked with a will, the Friends' Meeting house was washed from ridge to foundation stone, the boys hurrahed, clapped their hands, ran under the stream, got wet, and had a good time generally, and it was voted by them, unanimously, that the No. 1 was an engine to be proud of. But time has passed on, and the old engine and all her company, with the single exception of the pipe-man (Mr. Jesse Coffin) have passed away. He still lingers among us, an old man in the nineties, and I can hardly realize, as I notice his tottering gait, that he is the tall, strong, active fireman of fifty years ago. The other four engines have also gone, two of them, the Volunteer and Nantucket, being abandoned and burned in the great fire of 1846, and the others broken up and sold. Their members have also most all passed off the stage, only one or two that I can call to mind being left. There was also a small engine called the "Pioneer," kept at the Asylum for the Poor, at the Quaise farm, which was brought into town about thirty years ago, and given to a company of boys. She was used by boys for a number of years, but was finally sold with the others. The "Cataract," G, was the first engine of the new, or Hunne-man pattern, which was brought to our is-

and. She was followed by the "Torrent," 7, "Fountain," 8, "Ocean," 9, and "Niagara," 10. After the fire of 1846, the new Philadelphia engine "Deluge," 4, was purchased, to take the place of the "Volunteer," and some years afterwards the "John B. Chace" was brought from Providence. When the "Cataract" first came to the island it was claimed that she would throw water over the South tower, and the trial was soon made. The engine was placed near the church, and a number of unbelievers stationed themselves in the observatory, opened the windows, and defied the firemen to wet them. They were however, soon compelled to close them, for a good stream of water was thrown in, giving some of them a thorough wetting. The water was thrown fairly over the vane, and the superiority of this class of engines over the old ones established. This feat has been performed a number of times since by the other engines.

The first fire of which I have any distinct recollection, was that at the house of Jedidah Lawrence, where the house of Mr. E. W. Perry now stands. It took fire in the basement, and was but slightly damaged. A school for children was kept by Mrs. Clark, in the front room of the house, and the scholars were got out through the kitchen, badly smoked and frightened, but unharmed. As there could be no school in the afternoon—for as one of the boys expressed it, "there was a South Shore full of water in the cellar"—we were all happy, and willing to take another smoking. Following this, was the fire at the paint shop of Thomas Smith, near the head of the Old North Wharf, caused by the boiling over of a kettle of oil; the barn of Isaac Coffin, Esq., on Charter street; the Elizabeth Chase store, where the Coffin Schoolhouse now stands, and some others of less note, all of which were confined to the building where they originated, until that of May, 1836, when the "great fire," which had been so long looked for, and has been known since as the "Washington House fire," occurred, burning four large buildings corner of Main and Union streets. This was followed two years later, by that of June, 1838, when the "Ropewalk fire" burned thirty or forty buildings under the bank, and took the name of the "great fire," until July, 1846, when the terrible conflagration occurred which swept off everything between Main and Broad streets, and Centre street and the wharves, besides many other buildings beyond these limits, destroying property to the amount of nearly or quite \$1,000,000, and has since been entitled, as I hope it always may, to be called the "great fire." The amount of damage by fire at any one time since that, has been small, considering the fact that our town is so compactly built, and almost entirely of wood. The new firemen, as well as the old, are entitled to much credit for the promptness with which they have always responded to the tap of the bell, and it is owing to their efficiency that we have many times been saved from a disastrous conflagration.

1830.

July 3, 1880

May 29, 1909



THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION ON SOUTH WATER STREET.

Various Things Concerning Nantucket's Earlier Years.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

I had not planned to request more space in The Inquirer and Mirror at present, but agree with a previous writer that when one notices an error in articles on historical matters, it is better to offer corrections rather than let them pass unnoticed, and thus assist in getting as close to facts as possible. In friend Farnham's interesting article of last week on the fire engines of his boyhood days were one or two errors of location, and it may be of interest to have these set aright. My researches have developed the following facts as to the locations of the "old tubs" of the period between 1840 and 1860:

Engine No. 1 (she had no name) was located at the junction of Main and Milk streets, where stands Whittemore Gardner's grocery store. She had no suction, and her leading hose was of 2 or 2½ inches diameter. At fires she was placed near one of the old fire pumps and cisterns and filled by pumping and buckets.

No. 2—the Volunteer—was located on York street, next the Harris homestead. She was manned by colored men.

No. 3—the Active—occupied a house on Liberty street, on the northwest corner of M. F. Freeborn's houselot.

No. 4—Deluge—(known as "Double-Decker") was in the centre house (there were three) at the corner of Centre and Quince streets.

No. 5—Nantucket. I have found it difficult to get accurate information of this engine, but am informed she was at one time located on Union street.

No. 6—Cataract—located at first on east side of the Atlantic Straw Works office, just below E. A. Lawrence's house; she later was on Main street, next east the John W. Barrett (now Wallace) property; and later house and engine were again moved to Orange street, between the Willard property and the Frederick W. Folger shop.



Nantucket's Motorized Fire Department.

No. 7—Torrent. This engine was in a house that stood north of the Reuben F. McCleave (now Hayward) property, on Centre street. She was later moved to the north of the three houses corner Centre and Quince streets, and her house sold, and it is now a part of the barn of James A. Holmes, Mount Vernon street.

No. 8—Fountain. At one time this popular machine had an abiding place on Main street, on land west of H. R. Coleman's home; then was transferred across the street to the No. 1's house, after the latter had been condemned, where she remained until the house on Centre street (rear of Union store) was prepared for her.

No. 9—Ocean. This old-timer for many years occupied a house on Ash lane, just off Centre street. Later she was removed to the No. 1's house, Main street, where she remained until sent to the scrap heap, when the house (as has been stated) was taken to Tuckernuck for a school-house.

No. 10—Niagara. Her home, so far as I can learn, was always in the house on Orange street, opposite Mulberry street.

No. 11—Pioneer. Known as the boys' engine, occupied the southern part of the triple house on Centre street.

The first breaking away from the old type hand tub was the purchase of the Deluge, No. 4, with her double set of brakes—one above the other. She was never esteemed a success.

Then followed the John B. Chace, No. 4, a more modern piece of apparatus, purchased second-hand from Providence, some time between 1865 and 1868. I will not dwell on the more recent additions and improvements to our fire service.

Here's a little bit of poetic sentiment. The lines were written by Obed Macy, the historian, to Abigail Pinkham, afterwards his wife:

A long consideration
Of the good reputation
Thou hast in this nation,
Gives me an inclination
To become thy relation
By a legal capitulation;
And, if this my declaration,
May but gain thy approbation,
It will lay an obligation
From generation to generation
On thy friend,
Who, without thy consideration,
May remain in expectation.

On mature consideration
Of this unique narration
Of his infatuation,
Without further hesitation,
With no coy dissimulation,
But with maidenly elation
And perhaps some perturbation—
She accepted annexation,
And life-long assimilation.

I wonder how many there are who know that at one time the Town owned the land on the northwest corner of High and Pleasant streets, and that there was located the "gaol." The jail-keeper's house, now on Vestal street, was moved from the Pleasant-High street site to its present location. On this same bit of town's land was also located the "poor house." And I am informed that at one time a fire engine was located there.

Returning again to local fire apparatus, possibly it may be well, for the benefit of those of younger growth, to describe the hook and ladder trucks of earlier years. These consisted of a pair of solid wheels of about four feet diameter, with solid axles. On these the fire ladders were placed—balanced—and the companies forward—ed this unique outfit by drawing and pushing on the ladders. It was a primitive rig, and has been out of commission only a comparatively few years.

R. B. Hussey.



WHEN NANTUCKET BROKE ITS OWN "AUTOMOBILE EXCLUSION" ACT THIRTY YEARS AGO. The above photo was taken when Nantucket purchased the auto-chemical fire engine and violated its own automobile exclusion regulation in 1912. The picture was taken upon the occasion of the trip which the motor vehicle made to 'Sconset on a test run, Sunday, June 2, 1912.

In the group (left to right) are Fireward Charles G. Coffin, the expert who came down with the chemical, Harrison G. Gardner, superintendent of the fire alarm, Fireward Arthur A. Norcross, an interested 'Sconset youth, Firewards Horace L. Gibbs and Maurice W. Boyer, Ex-Firewards Robert W. Coleman, Fireward Charles H. Pitman, Ex-Fireward Frederick S. Chadwick, and on the extreme right, G. H. Brinton, proprietor of the Beach House. Of the men above mentioned, Messrs. Norcross and Gardner are the only ones now living.

In the body of the apparatus, when the picture was snapped, were a crowd of 'Sconset lads, some of whom—men-grown today—will probably recall the occasion with interest when they see this picture.

Edmund P. Crocker, the first driver of the machine, appears in the driver's seat.



THE AUTO-CHEMICAL LEAVING HER QUARTERS ON CENTRE STREET—FORMERLY THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION.

The above picture was taken in 1916. Maurice Norcross was driver at that time. Seated beside him is William Garnett. Standing is William W. Forrester.

A trial of engines Nos. 4 and 6—John B. Chase and Cataract—took place on the Square in front of our office, last Saturday evening, and gave entire satisfaction. At a recent trial of the latter "tub" she did not work well, but immediate repairs were made, and she worked to a charm. A feature of the trial was forcing the water from in front of the Pacific Room to the corner of Fair street. The John B. Chase took her station at the cistern and filled the Cataract, which was stationed in front of Mr. O. F. Hussey's store; the latter engine playing but a small stream. The machines then changed places but with no better result. It is an up grade and therefore hard work for hand-engines to overcome it. But the result of the exhibition was generally satisfactory. The boys, as usual, were out in force to "run under"—an amusement which the average Nantucket boy is extremely partial to. Their elders stood out one side and were varied in their opinions as to the relative qualities of their favorite "tub." It would be a good plan for our engines to be tested once a month during the summer, that people may be sure they are in order in case of need. Besides, we like to have our windows washed. Bring 'em out.

Dedication of The New Engine House.

The lower end of Orange street was alive last Monday night, for Captain Barrett of the Niagara Engine Company, No. 10, had bidden to the dedication his brother foremen of the other engines and the Firewards and Selectmen, and nearly all had accepted the invitation. The new house is on land leased by the Firewards for a term of ten years, and is on Orange street, and occupies the site of a former house of the same company. It is a substantial structure, intended to accommodate a fire engine, a hose carriage and a hook and ladder truck. By 7.15 o'clock the building was crowded and the fun commenced. Capt. Barrett proved himself a capital entertainer, and had provided his guests a musical treat for the first part. An orchestra, composed of Messrs. Crocker at the organ, Johnston at the accordion, Handy at the tambourine and Hull with the bones, ably assisted by Mr. Howard Easton in triangle selections, kept the company in the best of humor for about an hour, the vocal selections of Messrs. Johnston and Hull providing a rare treat. At 8.15 Capt. Barrett rapped for order, and in well-chosen words thanked the Firewards in behalf of his command for the new house and attendant accommodations, and announced that the company would now form in the street and proceed to the temporary quarters and bring the engine to her new home. At this several members of the company were seen to quietly start off with mischief in their eyes. However, the company and guests formed in open order, and to the stirring airs of a drum corps marched down to the barn of Mr. Alfred Smith. "Halt!" shouted Capt. Barrett who was in the lead. "The dust-brown ranks stood fast." Proudly he threw open the doors to drag his pride forth. Lo! an empty barn met his sight. Turning to the waiting column he cried, "b'boys, she's gone." Visions of jealous rivals stealing the tub flitted through his mind. The "guying" was just commencing when someone discovered her in the rear of the barn where the thieves(?) had left her on being surprised at their dastardly work. To draw her forth was the work of a moment, when the column was again formed, and returning in triumph, placed the "tub" in her new quarters. Then Capt. Barrett invited the assemblage to step into the adjoining room where a liberal lunch of tea, coffee, crackers and cheese and cigars closed the evening's entertainment. Many houses along the line of march were illuminated and jollity reigned supreme. The companies are to be congratulated on their fine quarters, and foreman Barrett is the right man in the right place.

Nov. 30, 1901.

1875

Nantucket's Fire Engines.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

Your edition of 8th inst. reached me this morning, and upon going through its contents, I was somewhat surprised at the difference of opinion between R. B. Hussey and myself relative to the location of our old-time fire-engines. I have no recollection of No. 1 being anywhere but on Pleasant street, at or near the locality of the house owned by the late Benjamin Morris. Nor can I recall the location of the Active, No. 3, anywhere except in the court off of Orange street, of which the house formerly owned by the late Frederick Gardner made the north corner—Gorham's court I think was its name.

Deluge, No. 4, was always in the middle house, corner Centre and Quince streets.

I am not surprised at his difficulty in getting accurate history of Nantucket, No. 5, for she was burned in the fire of 1846.

I well remember the morning after the fire of going down through Step Lane to the street nearly opposite to where the shop of the late Alfred Swain was and viewing her remains, and if my memory is not greatly off color she was a side-bar tub, style of the late John B. Chace.

My only recollection of Cataract, No. 6's, location was in the immediate vicinity of the straw works.

Torrent, No. 7, was always, to my recollection, in the house on Centre street.

At one time Fountain, No. 8, was located on Main street, and I think, was removed from there to the house on Centre street.

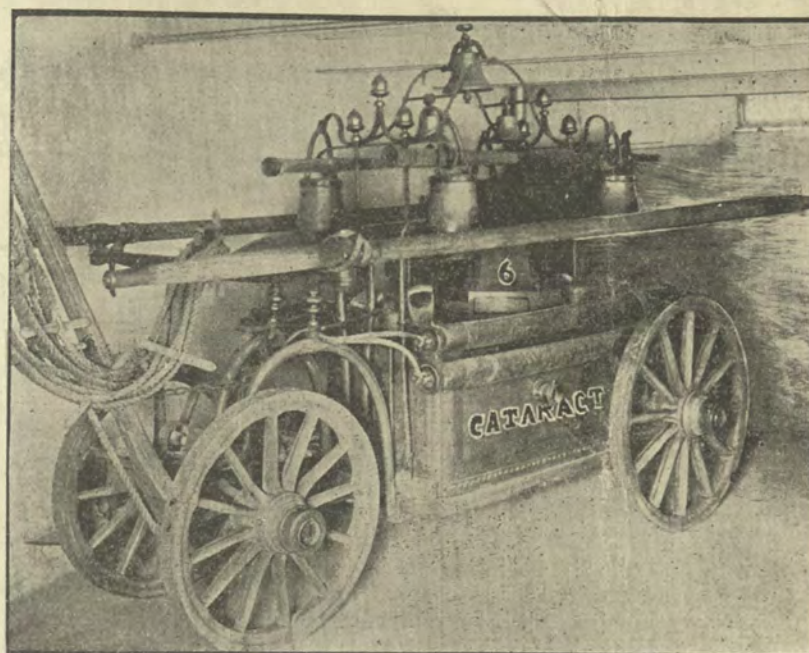
I have no recollection of the time when Ocean, No. 9, was removed from Ash lane to the north house, corner Centre and Quince streets.

I never knew of Niagara, No. 10, being elsewhere than on Orange street, near Mulberry.

Since commencing this, my wife informed me that the Active, No. 3, was for a very short time on Liberty street, and that Pioneer, No. 11, was housed there also, and that the difference in noise in housing No. 3 and No. 11 was perceptible.

The only location I ever knew of No. 11 occupying on Centre street was when she was housed with the popular and efficient Fountain, No. 8, and it required the same amount of noise to house her there as it did on Liberty street.

The old fire engine Ocean has been at the shop of Mr. William C. L'Hommedieu, recently, undergoing thorough repairs. A part of the machinery was overhauled in Boston and the remainder done here. The cylinders have been re-bored and new plungers fitted. The exterior of the engine has also received its share of attention at the hands of Mr. John P. Clisby, who has painted it in the highest style of the art. The machine no longer goes by the name of "Ocean," No. 9, but has been given the bold name "Defiance," and is now the No. 1 tub.



The famous "Cataract"—which took part in the battle against the conflagration of 1846—is preserved in the Historical Association's fire-proof building.

It strikes me very forcibly that your kickers against auto-fire-apparatus received a good set-back, from the report in your paper last week, for when the alarm was struck, she was chugging to the vicinity. Could any of the old-timer have gotten out of the house even in that time? Not even the No. 8, with her headquarters full of men, could have done it. Here is another proposition for the kickers to consider: Suppose there is a blaze in 'Sconset; in fifteen minutes the auto can be at work on the blaze.

I will note an occurrence that happened in Woburn last week. A hotel took fire, and while the department was at work, the old Silby (which the city had borrowed of Wakefield) gave out. The Woburn chief called on Wakefield for assistance, and Chief Cade (one of the ablest fire fighters in the state) responded with our auto, and in thirteen minutes was in Woburn—5½ miles. How do your kickers get over such efficiency? From what I can learn from those I meet from the island, you have "got the goods," also. All the improvement I could suggest to your department would be to discard your steamers and replace them with autos, for they are the coming fire apparatus for speed, efficiency and safety of the inhabitants.

D. Joy Starbuck.
Greenwood, Mass.

MARCH 15, 1913

Fire Engines of Nantucket Fifty Years Ago.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

The Volunteer Fire Department of Nantucket fifty years ago was one for which the town of Nantucket had every reason to be grateful. In fact, I think the citizens of that day fully appreciated that service, and in numerous instances realized its paramount effect as the men at the brakes, by hard, sacrificing and loyal effort, successfully combated and stayed a serious conflagration, aided by the hose-men at the nozzle carefully guiding the stream, and by the hosemen whose business it was to attend to the water supply at the well, the cistern, or at the harbor, as the case might have been, to see that the suction hose was in place and that it was working properly. These hardy men, too, unified in their work, were under the guidance and judgment of efficient captains.

One of the earliest serious fires in my young life was the destruction, on July 8, 1852, of the old West Grammar School building. I was a very small boy, yet I distinctly recall my visit to that scene the morning after its occurrence. My brother George, who was a pupil in the school at that time, took me there to see it. Although so many years have since passed, I can yet now almost feel the hand clasp of that older brother on that memorable morning.

An epidemic of incendiary fires caused consternation throughout the town, if my memory serves me rightly, in the year 1863. Regularly on Monday and Thursday—I feel confident those were the days—about seven or eight o'clock in the evening, an alarm of fire would startle the town. I do not recall how long this continued, or how many were the fires, some serious, others of small account. I think, however, it covered a period of two or three weeks. I distinctly remember the fact of this exciting experience.

That epidemic was finally broken by the fire which razed to the ground the cooper shop of David Folger on Lily street. Quite busy was that shop at the time, and everything within the building—stock, tools and fixtures—was a total loss, nothing whatever being saved. The parties responsible for that reign of terror—I regret to say two Nantucket boys—by the cooper shop fire were detected, arrested, tried and sent to state prison.

The old hand engines—"tubs" we were wont to call them—loyally manned, were vital in the protection, safe-guarding and saving of property in my native town in my boyhood. The names and numbers of many of them I remember. Some I had forgotten, but a true son and friend of Nantucket has stimulated my memory by naming such to me. Down on Orange street, near York street, and I think at one time a little west of that, in "Guinea," was housed the old Volunteer, No. 2. She was officered and manned by colored men, always true and trusty citizens—at any rate they were emphatically so in the days of my review.

Then there was the Active, No. 3. I cannot now "house" her; the old Deluge, No. 4—she with the two sets of brakes, one above the other, to operate which one set of men stood on the ground and another set on the tub herself (we always called her the "Double-Decker") was housed on Centre street, near the corner of Hussey street; the Nantucket, No. 5, which I fail to call distinctly to my mind; the Cataract, No. 6, housed in two or three different places, as I remember, but lastly on the west side of Fair street, not far from Main street—of her a word further on; the Torrent, No. 7, housed on Centre street, with No. 4. The Fountain, No. 8, was housed on the east side of Centre street, just north of Main, and was always manned by one of the crack and liveliest companies in the town, which maintained a popular and influential social organization in the brick building at the northeast corner of Main and Federal streets, I can, as I write, mentally see and read "No. 8 Headquarters," in carved raised letters in finish of gold as they appeared on that building in my boyhood.

The Ocean, No. 9, I have but a vague recollection of, but the Niagara, No. 10, is most clear in my memory. She was located in more than one place, as I knew her, but for the most of the time was housed on Orange street, nearly opposite Mulberry street.

The Pioneer, No. 11, a small affair—one which I had almost forgotten, yet vividly remembered when named to me—was an engine "manned" by boys, and with which I had active connection for a brief period just before leaving my native town for a home abroad.

Those old "tubs"—how their importance and the service which they rendered so many years ago now loom in my retrospective thought. Some of the buildings then used for housing those fire-fighters, I think, are even now occupied.

To keep the pumps in good working order, the hose in proper condition and to be sure that everything pertaining to those "fire-fighters" was all right, trials or tests of them were frequently made. Often in boyhood have I heard: "The No. 10 is coming out tonight"; or it might be the No. 8, the "Double-Decker," the No. 6, or any of the other of those old hand fire-engines. Such an announcement was always pleasing to us boys, and we were on hand when the event occurred.

The old cistern, then on the north side of lower Main street, opposite the end of Union street, was where the fire-engine would quite invariably go for practice. Arrived at the spot, the old black suction hose would be taken from the side of the "tub," and strung out in two, three or more lengths, secured by the brass couplings at the ends of the sections, the old stone cover by its iron ring in the centre having been lifted from its place over the cistern, the suction hose was lowered carefully into the water and secured by coupling to the side of the engine leading directly into the tank.

In the meantime the hose through which the water passed to the nozzle had been unrolled from the old-fashioned hose-reel—which was on two wheels, with an iron handle or "tongue" with cross-piece at the end for dragging it about, and which in going to and from the engine-house was always attached to and dragged behind the fire-engine. With this hose extended in long lengths, with nozzle screwed on at its end, it was in readiness for action.

Everything prepared, with the men at the brakes, two men at the nozzle—called pipemen—the suction hose men at the cistern, the captain gave the word, and the fun was on. And what fun it was to us boys! I recall nothing more "drawing," more irresistible, more tensely tempting, which held us more closely, than did that exhilarating experience in my few active boyhood years "at home."

To "run under"—ah, that was the real sport! How many are there now, I wonder, once boys with me in Nantucket so long ago, who remember how we indulged in such boyish pranks? What was this special line of fun? It was simply to run under, back and forth, the spraying drops—yea, nearer than in the spray—which were forced from the end of that stream of water delivered from that nozzle. Get wet? Did we? Well, yes, beyond any doubt or question. Because of it there were after consequences as a sequel. Mother surely "got busy." But, then, we thoroughly enjoyed the first part of the story.

But as to the "Cataract, No. 6." "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood"—and that old "tub" is specially dear to me as I withdraw the curtain covering those now long years. That once prized fire-fighter, immense in size to my boyish vision, often "shopped" and re-painted, was the last time so put in gala attire by William Henry Coffin, as he decked her in cream color paint, and in gold leaf gave her the final touches and ornamentations.

How I can now mentally see that old fire-engine—to my view "a thing of beauty and a joy forever," or at least it was then so, and I thought it was always going to be so. Mr. Coffin I well remember as one of the "crew" of the "Cataract," a man a little under stature, slightly bow-legged, but withal a man genial and always a gentleman. As described, I am quite confident that it was the last painting and decorating that old "tub" had.

I familiarly knew and appreciated more than I could then or can now express, the one-time active "Cataract, No. 6." Why my intense personal interest? Is that the question? Well, such is most easily answered. My father was captain of that old tub for more than eighteen consecutive years.

But alas for former glory! That fire-engine, unlimbered, and lying on the floor—the old hose reel which belonged to and which has followed her on so many trips for service and for play—the old rope, with the turned cross-pieces of oak wood woven into it, extending six or eight inches from either side, each so often oppositely

clasped by a faithful hand of her one-time crew, and by which she was so frequently drawn from place to place in those far-back days in my native town, now lying in coil—ah, me, all former glory gone, but their recollections remaining, and I verily believe not faded—all that is left in combination of materials constituting that old make-up now quietly reposes in the rooms of the Nantucket Historical Society on Fair street and Ray's court.

Those bells on top of that old fire-tub, which used to jingle, clang and resound, when that fifty year and more ago fire-fighter was leisurely drawn or hustled through the streets of my native town, are stilled, and the useful activities of that once admired engine are forever past. Not of much import, perhaps, to some people, but what vital visions have come to me as I have occasionally beheld those "remains" where they are now so carefully historically preserved.

In my adopted city of Providence, where I have lived for nearly forty-nine years, as also in many of the cities and towns of this country and in Canada, all through those years, I have seen various kinds of fire-fighting apparatus, effective, invaluable and almost human in action, in coping with serious conflagrations; yet, comparatively, I never have seen anything that in any essential sense, as I recall my boyish love and enthusiasm, ever measured up to the grace, power and results of that old fire-tub, the "Cataract, No. 6."

No matter what was the capacity, the service, the effect, or any other consideration attaching to or affecting the other hand fire-engines of Nantucket in my boyhood, in my then estimation—and I confess that, loyal in retrospect, I now hold quite the same view—that little old "Cataract," (what a mighty name?) out-did them all. Several times, I repeat, I have gazed with reverent admiration, on that old "tub" where she now lies. How large she once looked to me! Difficult, indeed, is it for me now, as I behold her, to realize that she is so small. It seems to me, in the lapse of the years, that she has actually shrunk.

My father and the men associated with him in that volunteer fire service have all, presumably, passed to the great assize of humanity. I cannot recall the names of those valiant and heroic men who "run" with that engine, but I do recall that John Wendell Macy was clerk. Memory is precious; events in review are entertaining; but that fire-engine "Cataract, No. 6"—my father as her captain, and the loyal band who "served with him"—are indeed pleasingly honored in my reminiscent thought.

J. E. C. Farnham.

Providence, Feb. 24. 1913

What Became of The "Pioneer", The Boys' Fire Engine?

This is a question we received from a subscriber recently: "Can you tell me what became of the boys' fire engine which was called the 'Pioneer' and which was active along in the early 50's?"

The last we heard of the "Pioneer" it was resting peacefully beneath the waters of Sesachacha pond and we have every reason to believe that it is still there.

The "Pioneer" was "the boys' engine", as our correspondent thinks. The pump was taken from a wrecked vessel which came ashore on the south side of the island, and it was mounted on a body built by one of the island mechanics, and at first had solid wooden wheels. Later the town had spoke wheels built and fitted to the equipment.

It was a small engine, but considering its size was quite effective and could throw a heavy stream of water. The town stipulated that the Pioneer company should be limited to thirty paid members, at a salary of \$3.00 a year each. The boys were between 15 and 18 years of age and they increased their number to sixty, but only thirty could draw a salary.

They had a club-room in the Franklin Nickerson building, over what is now the drug store of R. G. Coffin & Co., and there the boys would gather in the early evening hours.

Across the street was the "No. 8 Company's" headquarters (now No. 4's) and the members of the latter company always invited the boys over when they had a "feed". On cold winter nights the boys were free to come across and help themselves to "No. 8's" fuel in order to keep their room warm.

It is said that on the night of the West Grammar School fire (July 8, 1852) the Pioneer boys manned their engine and rushed with it up over the sidewalk, reaching the scene of the fire ahead of the "Fountain" Company, which had to use the roadway—a portion of which was then soft sand.

The Pioneers mounted their ladder against the burning building and turned the first stream of water onto the fire.

After the company disbanded in 1859, their engine was taken to Quidnet and for a time was stored in a barn there. One winter, when the pond was frozen over solid, some of the boys went out and took the engine across the ice just for a lark. They left it there, intending to bring it back the following day. But during the night a warm rain fell and the ice rotted quickly. The next morning the Pioneer had disappeared beneath the surface, never to be seen again.

Some years later, its "side-boards" broke away and washed ashore. The late William H. Norcross secured them and used them as sides for a horse-stall. For several years the name "Pioneer" stood forth when one entered the barn, but in remodelling and the changes which time wrought, all vestige of the little engine's side-boards disappeared. There is no doubt, however, that the pumper is still resting on the bottom of Sesachacha pond.

Nov. 18, 1959

JULY 14, 1961

Old Fire Department Truck Sold for \$510

The Fire Department's 35-year-old ladder truck has been sold to H. Flint Ranney, summer resident of 11 Cliff Road, for \$510, the highest of three bids received by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Ranney hopes to be able to drive the piece of antique fire apparatus over the road to Los Angeles where he has a collection of antique automobiles. He knows the fire truck was ruled off Massachusetts roads by the Registry of Motor Vehicles because of poor brakes and he plans to solve the problem by the addition of booster brakes.

Other bidders were R. Kingsbury Chase, of 1898 Beacon Street, Boston, who bid \$275, and John Walsh, Nantucket junk dealer, who offered \$212.78.

The bids were opened yesterday morning by Secretary James K. Glidden, who was authorized by the Selectmen to award the apparatus to the highest bidder.

At the Wednesday night meeting, the Board was faced with an unusual problem when it was found that the two island contractors, Nantucket Construction Company and Walter F. Glowacki, had submitted identical bids for the spreading of oil on dirt roads for dust control as authorized under Article 22 of the annual town meeting warrant. The town appropriated \$1,000 for the oil and work and the bids were based on the cost of the oil per gallon with 3,600 gallons of oil needed for the work. Both contractors submitted a bid price of 22 cents per gallon which would give a cost of \$792 for their contract price.

The Selectmen deliberated as to whether they would toss a coin to see which contractor would get the work or whether it should be split between them. Another alternative mentioned was to call for new bids. It was finally decided to talk the matter over with the contractors and see what they wished to do about it.

Superintendent of Street Matthew L. Jaeckle reported by letter that there is only \$277.49 left in the traffic markings account and he requested a transfer of \$600 from the reserve funds to bolster the account. He pointed out that many of the traffic lines on the town streets would have to be repainted about August 1 and he felt the transfer was necessary.

The request was referred to the Finance Committee.

Five letters from 'Sconset summer residents asked repairs of the steps leading to the beach from Magnolia Avenue.

According to Secretary Glidden, Mr. Jaeckle found the steps in bad shape and closed them to the public. No one knows who built them originally and whether they are the town's responsibility. Selectman John F. Meilbye suggested an estimate of the necessary cost be obtained and see if there are funds available for the work.

Miss Florence L. Schepp asked for a no parking sign by her property on Easy Street. The Board considered a 10 minutes parking limit in front of her property would serve best.

At the request of Mr. Jaeckle and Fire Chief Irving Bartlett, Thomas McGrath, Sr., will be asked to run a survey of the old fire cisterns under many town streets to see if they are safe for heavy traffic. The cisterns have not been used for years.

On the question of town departments making monthly reports of their activities, it was agreed to ask department heads to meet with the Board every two months.

A check from the Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co., for \$138.11 was received. The check represents a dividend on town employees' insurance.

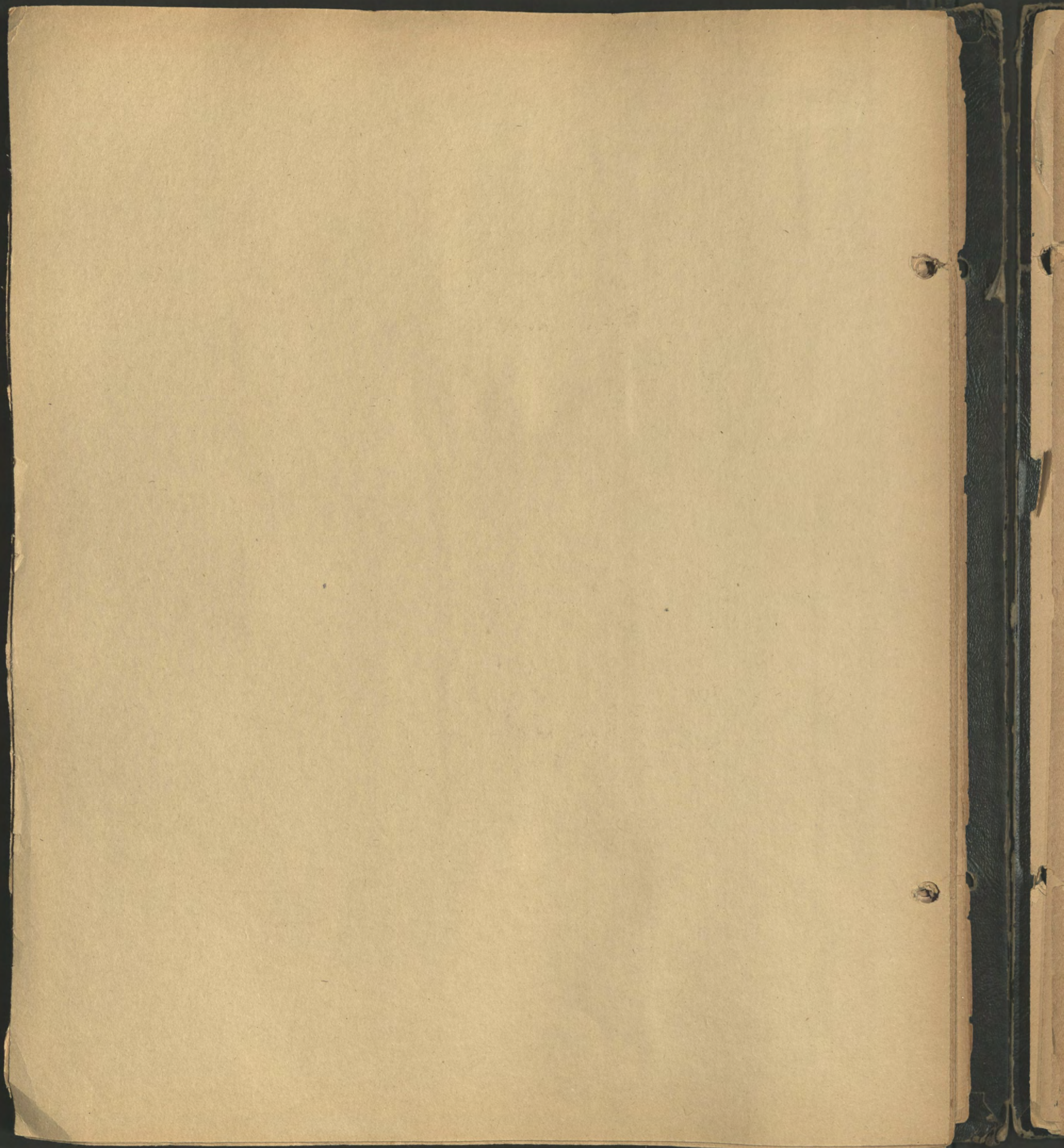
Our Fire Engines.

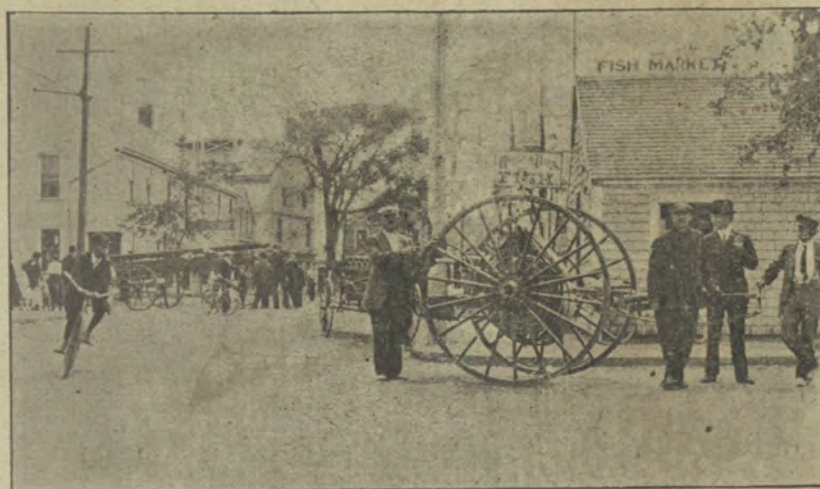
The new steam fire engine arrived by last evening's boat and will be given a thorough trial at the earliest opportunity—possibly some time today. No. 4. Engine house on Centre street has been fitted up for her reception, but it has

not been determined to which company she will be assigned. Engine No. 6, which has been condemned, has been sold to the Historical society for a nominal sum and is now stored in Mr. C. C. Crosby's building near Commercial wharf. This engine was the last one remaining in commission which did duty at the time of the "great fire" in 1846, she having been in commission some sixty years. It was between the members of this engine company and the firewards that a controversy arose during the incipient stages of that memorable fire. Meantime while they argued the fire burned and developed into a conflagration which swept away the entire business section of the town and dealt a blow to its prosperity from which it never recovered.

Engine No. 7 has been placed in the house on Gardner street vacated by No. 5 and engine No. 4 has been removed to the house on Centre street, corner of Quince, vacated by No. 7.

1896





Here is a real piece of fire apparatus belonging to the Nantucket Department. It is the hose carriage usually attached to the No. 4 steam engine, which is so seldom seen, either in practice or service, that she would not be recognized. The hose cart reached the corner of Lower Pearl and South Water streets, with three members of "4's Company" on their job. At the rear of the hose reel stands Arthur B. Collins, and in front are William H. Barrett and Orrin Coffin, while standing near-by is Joseph Larkin—who denies that he is a secret service man. In the distance is the hook-and-ladder, with the few members of its crew who showed up, receiving congratulations upon their appearance, in public.



And here is a real hook-and-ladder outfit, with its ladders and hooks all there. And just turning the corner is a real automobile (chemical)—the only piece of apparatus in the Nantucket Fire Department which is always on its job. Chief Norcross stands at the left of the pictures and is just giving an order for the auto-chemical to give the hook-and-ladder a tow back to its house. Perhaps he is wishing that the Department had a motor-pump apparatus—the modern "steamer"—which would respond to alarms as quickly as does the chemical. Then two-thirds of his troubles as chief would be over.

Sept. 22, 1917

Auto-Chemical Arrived Wednesday.

Nantucket's latest piece of fire-fighting apparatus—the automobile chemical—reached the island on Wednesday on steamer Uncatena, and received an ovation from a crowd of several hundred persons gathered on the wharf to witness its arrival. A few moments after the boat docked the chemical dashed up the wharf, through Broad, Federal, Pearl and Centre streets, to the engine house on the corner of Quince street, where it has taken up its permanent abode. At that point the chemical, with the members of the board of firewards, posed for its photograph before Gardiner's camera and withstood the inspection of a large number of our citizens.

After supper it took a spin about town, passed through a number of the crooked, sandy streets, went out over the state highway a couple of miles, and returned to town without having caused any of the dire calamities from frightened horses which some of the skeptics had predicted would result upon its first appearance in the streets of the town. Thursday afternoon it ran over to 'Sconset, making the return trip quite comfortably in seventeen minutes.

The chemical will be in service every day, in order that the expert may thoroughly drill Mr. Crocker into the intricacies of its operation, and before it is accepted by the firewards in behalf of the town a test will probably be made of its fire-fighting abilities, as well as its road-work and speed in getting about town in case of emergency.

The machine is one of the most modern pieces of fire apparatus and is more up-to-date than anything of the kind now owned by any city or town in this section of Massachusetts. It was built especially for Nantucket's needs at the factory of the Knox Automobile Company in Springfield, at a cost of \$5,900, and has been delivered several weeks ahead of the contract time. It is painted an attractive red, with gold trimmings, weighs 6,200 pounds and has a carrying capacity of 4,000 pounds.

While the expert is on the island, the firewards will have the chemical driven about town every morning, in order that Mr. Crocker may become familiar with its operation and obtain a thorough knowledge of the streets and roads, and fix in his mind the location of every box. During the afternoon the machine will be kept in its house, so that anyone out driving horses need have no fear of meeting it after the noon-hour, unless in case of an alarm of fire.

Nantucket and Its Auto-Chemical.

The New Bedford Mercury on Tuesday last printed a full column article on its editorial page, dealing with the discussion of the operation of the auto-chemical on this island and the consideration of the matter by the voters at the special town meeting on the 8th. The opening and closing paragraphs of the Mercury's editorial read:

"Nantucket has a house divided against itself as a result of the recent acquisition of the motor chemical fire apparatus and a town meeting was called last week to discuss the subject. Various issues are involved in the contention, it being the fear of many who are opposed to the use of motors on the island that the demoralizing effect of the presence of the machine may be that the opposition to automobiles, which are now prohibited, may be broken down. Since the apparatus was installed The Inquirer and Mirror has been full of scandalous insinuations of joy rides to 'Sconset and about town, and the lure of the motor has apparently made an appeal even under such inauspicious conditions as a jaunt on a heavy truck affords."

* * * *

"In so far as the fear which is upon the horses of Nantucket at the sight of a motor, that is of small consequence. An objection to the introduction of horse cars into New Bedford was the assertion that horses would never grow accustomed to them. The same opposition was made later on to trolleys, and one of the most expert horsemen who ever dwelt in this city is on record as having expressed the opinion to the board of public works at a hearing given at the time of the petition for a trolley franchise, that horses would never overcome their fear of trolley cars. Nantucket should consider, however, that her greatest asset lies in the primitive atmosphere of the place. Nantucket, with macadamized boulevards, fashionable hotels and the artificial paraphernalia of the grand resorts, would still be attractive, no doubt, but it would be spoiled for her true lovers; who would consider she had lost the immortal part of herself."

JUNE 22, 1912

Nantucket's Fire Alarm System Completed.

With the abolishment of her crude fire alarm system that has been in vogue a half century or more Nantucket has dropped another of her old-time customs, unique though it may have been in some particulars, and has taken another step which brings her in closer touch with the modern improvements and inventions of the day. The town has for several decades been able to point to its fire department with just pride, for it is one of the departments that has seen steady advancement in several lines. The old hand-engines did good service for many years and the record of the department in confining every fire to the building in which it started, since the great fire of 1846, has been commendable—more so from the fact that Nantucket is a thickly settled town with mostly wooden buildings.

When the apparatus was increased by the addition of the first steam fire engine several years ago, the department took its first step towards modernization, and last year a second steamer was installed, giving the town an equipment of fire apparatus better than many places of larger size and population. Isolated from the mainland by an expanse of thirty miles of water, Nantucket has no possibility of receiving assistance, and in case of emergency is compelled to rely wholly upon her own resources for safety and relief. Consequently the people realize that every step taken towards better fire protection lessens the liability of a disastrous conflagration.

Its hydrant service could not be improved upon, for in this respect Nantucket certainly gets good value for the money expended each year, and in case of fire the hydrant stream is usually the first to reach the blaze. The citizens will all admit that the service is excellent, and we doubt if any would care to see it abolished, notwithstanding how many steamers might be added to the apparatus.

At the annual town meeting in February last, however, the voters decided that the time had come when the town should have a modern telegraph fire alarm system, and \$3200 was appropriated for the purpose. The various phases of the departure were fully discussed, for it meant the abolishment of the "tower watch," a custom that had been in vogue many years, and which had always given satisfaction. It was to secure quicker and better fire protection, however, that the new move was made, and this week the automatic alarm system was put in operation for the first time.

The matter having been placed in their hands by the voters at the annual meeting, the firewards a few days thereafter closed a contract with the Gamewell Fire Alarm Company to install a system operating from fourteen boxes upon each of the church bells. A gang of workmen under the superintendency of Henry Humphrey, the company's agent, have been at work here for several weeks, and on Tuesday afternoon the system was announced ready for operation, and was given its trial test. The full board of firewards made the tour of inspection, accompanied by the company's workmen, insurance agent Albert G. Brock and The Inquirer and Mirror's representative.

The test was satisfactory in every detail, although slightly marred by the exploit of John P. Taber, who essayed to ring in an alarm from box 48 just as the party started on its official trip of inspection. The incident delayed the work somewhat and caused considerable indignation among the firewards, as the system did not then belong to the town, and that one of its citizens interfered with the test at the start caused them considerable embarrassment.

As soon as this difficulty was remedied, the party visited box 47, on the corner of Orange and York streets, where Joseph Ray, who happened to be standing near, was requested to ring in an alarm. The full four rounds were given in perfect order, and box 46 on Orange street hill was next visited. Here a rather interesting incident occurred. Asa C. Jones, the venerable cobbler, who served fifty years on the fire department, (a few years ago being succeeded by his son), was privileged to pull in the alarm, the entire board of firewards being grouped about him as he did so. Everything worked smoothly at this box also, and the other boxes were then inspected in the following order:

Box 53—corner of Main and Pleasant streets, alarm rung by Chief Horace L. Gibbs; 54—junction Milk and Mill streets, alarm rung by Fireward Charles H. Pitman; 56—Upper Main street, alarm rung by John C. Gardner; 57—Liberty street, near Pearl, alarm rung by Albert G. Brock; 39—Centre street foot of Gay, alarm rung by John C. Ring; 38—junction Centre and West Centre streets, alarm rung by George C. Chase; 36—Cliff Road, near Sea Cliff hotel, alarm rung by Gershom Phinney, (the oldest resident in that vicinity); 34—corner Lincoln and Jefferson avenues, alarm rung by Edward Hamblin; 32—Easton street, corner Walsh street, alarm rung by Fireward Frederick S. Chadwick; 42—South Water street, alarm rung by George E. Mooers, Esq.; 43—Union street, alarm rung by Benjamin McCleave.

Box 45, on the corner of Main and Orange streets was the last to be visited, although the most central of the system, and at the suggestion of the firewards and Superintendent Humphrey, the alarm from this box was sent in by The Inquirer and Mirror's representative.

Exit the Watchman.

Dear old Nantucket, the little island in the sea, whose inhabitants make a business of relieving the whilom visitor of his filthy lucre in the summer, and then sit by the fire-side and count their gains over and over during the winter, is fast adopting twentieth century manners and customs. After scores of decades of protection from fires by the vigilance of faithful watchmen in the old South tower, by day and by night, these self-same watchmen have lost their occupation, and hereafter, if Capt. Brown's cottage takes fire, an alarm will be sounded by electric bells on the three churches of the island, instead of by the vigorous efforts of the human fire alarms. Of a verity, the quaint old town is livening up. Her people have fully mastered the art of separating the warm weather tourist from his vacation cash, have installed a fire alarm system, and may eventually come to New Bedford in air-ships.—Fitchburg News.

Incidents of the Official Test.

There were some rather amusing features connected with the trial of the fire alarm system Tuesday afternoon. When the inspection was being made at box 47, a lady opened the door of her home near-by and wanted to know "when the noise would start." She was apparently laboring under the impression that the alarm box contained a gong which would be struck in case of fire, and felt relieved when the inspector told her she would not be disturbed by any gong ringing promiscuously in front of her house.

One man, when coaxed to ring in an alarm, evidently thought the box contained some infernal mechanism, for as soon as he commenced to pull the lever, setting the clock-work in motion, he dashed across the street and climbed upon some steps out of danger, with the remark that "there was some trick about it."

At box 36 on Cliff Road, Gershom Phinney, a man 83 years old, hobbled out to the box with his cane and pulled the alarm with a noticeable chuckle, apparently being greatly interested in the new invention, while his aged help-meet looked forth from the window.

At another box, a man who had lost his position of bell-ringer by the innovation, stepped forth and rang in an alarm with the remark that "he could see where he was ten dollars a year out."

William Holland, in passing by the alarm box on Liberty street, just as the firewards' delegation was approaching, could not resist the temptation to pull the lever down, and then skulked away over the back fields to his stable. The firewards took it all in good part, however, as the test had then been in progress over an hour.

When the party was grouped about box 36 on Cliff Road, Superintendent Humphrey chanced to remark that he hoped the box would never be rung for a fire in the Sea Cliff hotel, which stands opposite. The mere mention of the fact made the firewards shudder so that one of them nearly lost his false teeth.

No one can deny that John P. Taber can claim the "honor" of ringing in the first alarm, but few people would care to hold the honor under those conditions.

One of our citizens has suggested that the fire alarm system could be improved if, instead of an automatic gong being placed in each of the firewards' houses, two of them be located in the homes of the engineers who have charge of the steam fire engines. He claims that the services of the engineers are more necessary at a fire than are the firewards.

Two Fires At Once Friday Night.

The Fire Department answered a telephone call to 94 Orange Street to subdue a long-smoldering blaze in a small shed at the rear of the dwelling occupied by Mrs. Marguerite Moore, Friday evening, and no sooner did they begin to get this blaze under control when the alarm sounded a second time. This second alarm was sounded from Box 44.

One engine left the first fire and as it returned to the Fire Station going along Union Street, found the second fire, a storage shed and garage on Fayette Street, owned by Edward B. Lewis and used by him in connection with his business as funeral director. The first engine was joined by a second from the station, and the firemen, including Mr. Lewis, who is first assistant Fire Chief, had a difficult time subduing the blaze.

The fire had evidently started as a short circuit in Mr. Lewis' truck, which he said he had put in the shed no later than 8:00 that evening. The blaze was first noticed shortly after 10:00 o'clock.

The damage to the building was considerable, and the truck in particular was badly burned. Several caskets stored in the building were also damaged by water and smoke. The smoke was extremely heavy, and hampered the firemen as well as blanketing the town.

The damage in either fire has not yet been officially determined.

This the second time this year that two fires have occurred at once.

Aug. 14, 1954

Garage Destroyed by Fire Wednesday Afternoon.

What might have been a serious conflagration in Quidnet Wednesday was averted by the prompt response of the Nantucket Fire Department. Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Hagedorn were getting ready to leave the island after a month's stay at their home when a fire in their incinerator spread through the surrounding dry grass to their garage and small studio.

When the alarm was spread in the village, neighbors quickly went to their assistance and the Fire Department, remembering the Coghill fire in Quidnet several years ago, made an extra fast trip from town. The blaze was fortunately halted before any damage was done to the house.

Damage was estimated at \$2,200. by Fire Chief Cartwright.

The department was called out last Saturday afternoon when the fire at the town dump got out of control, with a strong south-westerly wind fanning it. This was also taken care of in short order.

On Wednesday the department responded to a call at the home of Mrs. Frank Marks on Union Street. A small blaze in her front porch was extinguished with no appreciable damage.

Aug. 7, 1954

Fire Department Responded To Five Calls This Week.

The Nantucket Fire Department had one of its busiest weeks for some time, this past week, answering a total of five calls. Of these two were on Saturday and two on Sunday. The call Wednesday noon was a false alarm.

The first fire occurred about 11:30 a.m. Saturday morning, and was located off the Madaket Road. Fire Chief Cartwright states that the cause of this fire has not been determined, it being in an area approximately 500 feet north of the Madaket Road, between that and the Eel Point Road.

Later the same day about 6:00, the apparatus was called to a fire in a house on Dave Street, off Lower Orange Street. The fire in the home of William G. Varney, was attributed to his smoking in bed.

Sunday morning the fire apparatus was again called to the Madaket Road area, a blaze having started from sparks carried from the town dump. While this fire was in progress, the Fire Department received a telephone call summoning apparatus to the home of Harold E. Dunham, on Swain Street.

Not wishing to cause confusion by sounding two blasts on the fire alarm, that being the call for a fire north of the Central Fire Station and also indicating the "all out", three blasts were given. Three blasts normally indicates a fire south of the fire station.

Although the grass fire near Mr. Dunham's home was quickly extinguished, the "all out" signal was not sounded until the fire on the Madaket Road was also under control, to avoid further confusion.

Wednesday afternoon the fire apparatus was called to box 43, on Union Street near Coffin Street, about 1:30 p.m. This was found to be a false alarm, believed to have been rung by a five-year old boy living in the neighborhood.

1945



RETIRE NANTUCKET FIRE CHIEF Archibald Cartwright, second from left, receives a plaque from the Nantucket Firemen's Association in recognition of his 40 years of service with the department. Taking part in the ceremony are, left to right, Irving Bartlett, new head of the department; Chief Cartwright; George Hamblin, vice-president of the Firemen's Association; 1st Assistant Chief Richard Lewis and Herman Johnson, secretary of the association.

Chief "Archie" Retires.

At midnight last night, Friday, March 11, Chief Archibald Cartwright retired as Chief of the Nantucket Fire Department after eight years of faithful service.

Chief Cartwright, who was, incidentally, the last Nantucket man to ship aboard a whaling vessel, was a carpenter and contractor by profession prior to his appointment as Fire Chief. He was named to the posi-



Davidson Photo

CHIEF "ARCHIE" CARTWRIGHT

tion of Acting Chief following the resignation of former Chief William J. Blair, and assumed the office on February 14, 1947. He was officially appointed Chief at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen held the week following the annual Town Election of that year.

When asked yesterday what he plans to do now that his responsibilities in the Fire Department are over, Chief Cartwright chuckled and said, "I don't know. Sit on one of those green benches on Main street, I guess, and smoke a cigar." Then he added that he guessed he could still hit a nail straight or lay shingles as fast as anyone today.

March 12, 1955

Fire on Commons Burned Over Many Acres.

The fire which was burning out on the commons near Long pond on Friday and Saturday of last week assumed rather alarming proportions and covered a large area before it could be brought under control. Fireward Blair had a large force of men at work and they fought the flames for hours.

A pair of horses belonging to Albert S. Chadwick were used in plowing and a shift of wind came suddenly, trapping the outfit so that it was necessary to attempt to get them across the head of Long pond in order to get out of the path of the flames.

It is a treacherous spot at any time, due to the action of the sand at the head of the pond, which brings a condition resembling "quick-sand". Although the driver of the horses endeavored to pick a section which looked like secure footing for the animals, it proved to be a risky thing, for the horses suddenly sank down into the mire and were helpless. The plight was seen by men in the vicinity and also by the Coast Guards at the Madaket station, so that help was at hand speedily and after some hard work the horses were rescued. By that time the plow had practically disappeared from sight. Altogether it was a lively few minutes.

Passengers on the steamer crossing the sound Friday saw the dense clouds of smoke arising from Nantucket and thought that the whole island was on fire. The flames were eating their way through heavy growths of bushes and were covering a wide area at the time, and the direction of the wind was such that the smoke enveloped the sound.

May 15, 1926

-Snap Shop Photo

March 25, 1955



—Snap Shop Photo
NANTUCKET FIRE OFFICIAL HONORED—Assistant Fire Chief Edward Lewis of Nantucket, second from left, receives a plaque for 50 years of service with the volunteer department from Irving Bartlett, president of the Firemen's Association. Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright, retiring this month, is at left. At right is Herman Johnson, secretary of the association, and, standing beside him, George Hamblin, vice-president.

Feb. 25, 1955

Explosion And Fire Drive 3 To Street

An explosion of a flooded oil burning hot water heater and smoke from a resulting blaze in their cellar drove Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ellis and their son, William, from their home, 7 Cherry Street, early Tuesday morning. Damage to the house, mostly from smoke, and to telephone and electric wiring in the cellar, was estimated by Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett at \$800.

Mrs. Ellis who had just arisen when the explosion occurred telephoned an alarm at 6:30 a. m. to the fire station just before her telephone went dead. Her husband had just returned upstairs after tending the fire when the shattering explosion occurred, she said, spattering blazing oil on the floor and walls of the cellar.

Mr. Ellis and his son succeeded in controlling the blaze by shoveling dirt from outside the cellar door onto the ignited oil until firemen arrived at the scene and fought the blaze for a half hour.

Damage is covered by insurance.

Mrs. Ellis expressed appreciation to firemen, telephone company officials and neighbors for what she termed their great help during the emergency.

Mar. 16, 1956

Family Driven From Home By Fire Thursday.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. John O. Fox at 10 Weymouth Street was badly damaged by an early evening fire which broke out shortly before 6 p.m. Thursday. The fire apparatus responded quickly to the telephone call and another alarm was turned in almost as soon as the first engines arrived at the scene.

The blaze appeared to have started in or near a closet beneath the stairs to the second floor of the house and evidently burned undetected for some time before breaking out. The stairs were demolished, and severe damage was done to the front hall. Panelling on the living room walls was also badly damaged, as was the living room furniture and furniture in other rooms.

The Fire Department was able to keep the fire confined within the house despite the fact it burned through the outside wall near the stairway.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox and their two sons, John and Peter were all at home when the fire occurred. Mrs. Fox and Peter were downstairs as she prepared the evening meal, while John and his father were upstairs. Mr. Fox was in the extremely unfortunate position of being in the bathtub when the fire broke out, and was driven to the street attired in a towel. With few exceptions, the family lost all of their clothes as a result of the fire and dense smoke.

The pets of the family were rescued without difficulty, and are now being boarded at the M.S.P.C.A. Shelter on Atlantic Avenue, while the Fox family are staying at the home of Miss Rebecca Dickie, across the street from their own house. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fox have expressed their sincere appreciation for the clothes offered them following the fire.

No official estimate of the damage will be made until the report of the insurance adjuster is given following his scheduled inspection of the house this coming Monday.

DECEMBER 15, 1956

Nantucket's Fire Chief Irving Bartlett Keeps Up On Latest Firefighting Ideas

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, April 7—Keeping up with the latest fire fighting techniques is one of the most important duties of Nantucket's Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett.

Appointed chief of the 75-man department on March 15, 1955, he lost no time in starting a training program for the volunteer call-men. This fall he proposes a similar program. This training program operates with very little cost to the Nantucket taxpayers because the State finances the cost of training fire department personnel in small departments like Nantucket's.

Of the total of 75 men in the department, 25 are in the 'Sconset branch, seven miles from Nantucket's Main Street. This winter, about 55-60 families lived out there, but most of the 200-300 dwellings are occupied only during the Summers. Selectman Henry Coffin Jr., is deputy chief of the 'Sconset branch.

Chief Bartlett has set a high priority for acquiring an FM radio net for his department. He made a request in the Town Warrant presented at the Town Meeting in February, but the voters turned it down. The chief isn't discouraged though. He points out that with a property valuation of \$17,000,000, the Nantucket Fire Department does a pretty good job on an annual budget of \$30,000.

At present the chief does have an FM radio in his own 1/4-ton truck. This receiver and transmitter is tuned to the Nantucket Police Department radio frequency. The Nantucket police radio net is, in turn, part of the Barnstable County police network. At times, the Chief said, this arrangement makes it difficult for the Nantucket Fire Department to use their present radio setup. The Chief pointed out that during an emergency the airwaves might be in use by Barnstable County personnel.

"I don't want to be misunderstood on this thing," said the chief. "The police are co-operative and I have had to call them many times for assistance at fires. It's just that if the utility poles go down during bad weather or a fire starts along the roadways and at the same time, the Barnstable County Police network is being used—the Nantucket Fire Department will be without adequate communication."

Communications Cut

The chief can point to an incident which happened in 1949. During that year there was a break in the cable lines to 'Scon-



IRVING T. BARTLETT

set when fire burned out several poles along the roadside. At that time there was no communication between the two communities for several hours.

"I like to keep abreast of the changes in fire fighting techniques," the chief said, adding he gets much information by reading magazines devoted to firemen.

One recent change that the chief has put into effect is the use of the "fog" system employing preconnected hoses. The new hose arrangement saves time by having the lines already connected to the 600-gallon tank truck; the fog spray of fine water particles released under high pressure eliminates a great deal of water damage.

The chief pointed out that when a solid stream of water is used under high pressure severe damage is sometimes done to walls and ceilings. Under the new system the fine water particles spread in a "fog-like mist" absorbing heat quickly and smothering the fire.

Another innovation recently started is the use of a 35-mm. camera to record the department in action in color. Byron Snow handles the camera. Later the

color slides are shown during the training classes at the Nantucket Central Fire Station and the mistakes corrected.

Last year each call man spent approximately 35 hours in the training program. A tar-pit located a half-mile off the 'Sconset Road serves as a training grounds for the department to extinguish pre-set fires.

Served in World War II

Before his appointment by Nantucket's Board of Selectmen, Chief Bartlett operated a marine engine and outboard repair shop. During World War II he was a member of the Coast Guard for two years serving on Nantucket, Greenland and the Philippines. When he was discharged he held the rank of chief motor machinist's mate.

Working with tools and engines is nothing new to Nantucket's fire chief. He is a graduate of the Wentworth Institute in Boston having studied steam and electrical engine operation for two years.

Chief Bartlett is a native of Nantucket having been born here in 1918. He was graduated from Nantucket High School in 1935. In 1938 he married Bertha L. Hayden, former editor and pub-

lisher of the Madaket Free Press, here on Nantucket. They have three children—Marjorie, 16, Bruce, 12 and Charles, 4.

The chief believes an aerial ladder truck is urgently needed on Nantucket. There are several old wooden hotels and homes that are several stories high. At present the central fire station has six trucks including one very old aerial ladder truck. The latest truck in the fleet is a 1949 Chevrolet 600-gallon tank and pumper. The other five are of assorted types and vintages. One of the old solid-tire trucks was in use when the chief was a boy playing around the fire house.

The newest piece of equipment is the 1955 Ford, 500-gallon tank and pumper now stationed in 'Sconset.

3 Drivers

There are three full-time drivers stationed at the central fire house: Norman Barrett, Antone Silva and Thomas Hamblin. One of these drivers is always on duty at the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All the men in 'Sconset, however, are on a voluntary basis. The other full-time member of the fire department is John Gaspie, superintendent of the fire-alarm system.

The Nantucket Firemen's Association handles the insurance coverage for all the call-men for injuries sustained while working with the department. The cost is \$4 a year, the chief said. This fee is deducted from the \$25 paid all call-men except the 10 men in the No. 1 crew. These latter men receive \$75, the chief explained, because they answer all calls.

Monthly meetings are held in the upstairs recreation room at the central station on the third Sunday evening of every month. Techniques and training films are shown and weather permitting, off-island guests are invited to discuss the latest fire fighting information.

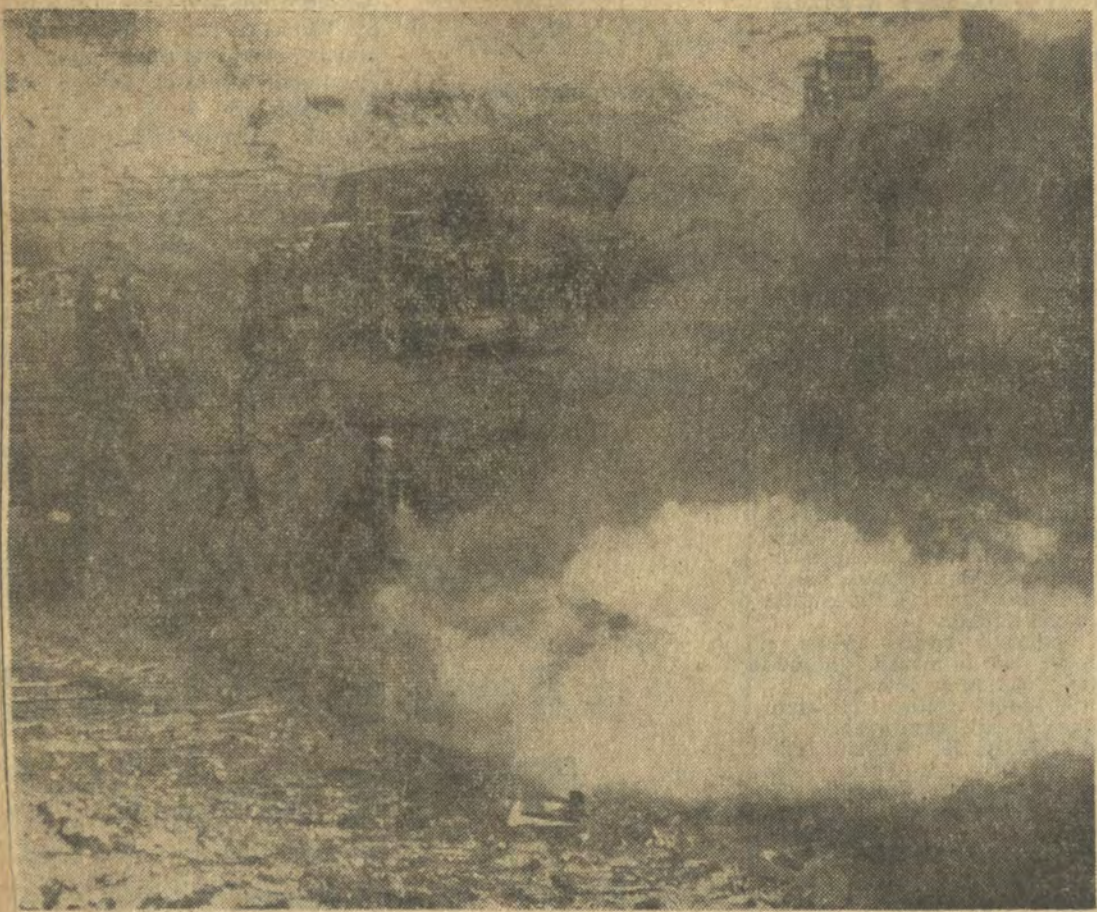
Deputy Chiefs Patrick E. Collins and Louis C. Driscoll of the Boston Fire Department were down last winter. Leighton Peck, an officer in the Falmouth Fire Department, held classes here last year.

Participation Sought

Chief Bartlett lives at 14 Garner Street in a 150-year-old, 11-room house. During the Summer season, he also rents rooms.

Next October Chief Bartlett hopes to be able to send several men from the department to participate in the Barnstable County Field Day and Training Program.

N. B. Apr 8, 1956



—Haddon Photo

NANTUCKET VOLUNTEER FIREMEN tried out firefighting techniques involving use of fog spray at a drill held at Nantucket tar pit. The demonstration was under the supervision of Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett.

N.B. Nov. 3, 1956



Photo by Stanley Roy

The above photograph, taken in the spring of 1942, shows the late William J. Blair conducting a test of one of the auxiliary pumps purchased by the Town during World War II. Two of these pumps were purchased, one of which is stationed at Island Service Wharf, and the other at Quidnet. Shown in the photograph besides Chief Blair are Assistant Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright, Harry Gordon, Edward B. Lewis, William Hamblin, Frank Miller, Arthur Collins, Richard Lewis, and Archibald H. Cartwright. Assistant Chief Cartwright was made Chief in 1947, serving until 1955 when the present Fire Chief, Irving T. Bartlett, was appointed.

Jan. 5, 1957

**Early Morning Fire Destroys
Point Breeze Hotel.**



The rear of the Point Breeze Hotel the morning after the fire, with the ruins of the kitchen in the foreground, and the remains of the "cottage" and the hotel, gutted by the flames.



The west end of the hotel on the Easton street side, showing one of the trees from which the firemen played their streams onto the fire, and the corner through which the flames ate their way.

Early last Saturday morning Nantucket experienced a serious fire, resulting in the destruction of about one-half of the Point Breeze Hotel property, and creating damage that will probably reach above \$50,000 and possibly as high as \$75,000. It is impossible to estimate the damage, which not only included the building, but the furnishings and contents, and the personal belongings of the guests.

There was \$30,000 insurance on the hotel, and when the insurance adjusters came down on Sunday to look over the ruins it did not take long for them to reach a decision, they awarding the full amount of insurance.

The hotel was filled to capacity with guests, many of whom were obliged to escape in their night clothes, having no time to dress or to save their personal belongings. Everybody in the building escaped without mishap of any kind and there was at no time anything in the nature of a panic, even though it was about 1.50 in the morning when the fire broke out.

It was one of the worst fires that Nantucket has experienced since the "great fire of 1846", and as a result the island has been robbed of one of its leading hotels right in the height of the summer season.

Just what started the fire will never be known. The blaze broke out in the kitchen and burst through the roof so suddenly that it was without warning of any kind. The kitchen was located at the rear of what was known as the cottage, which was formerly the Elijah Alley house, being joined to the hotel building many years ago.

It is fair to presume that the fire had its origin around the range, from which point it must have spread very rapidly, the rear of the cottage and the west end of the hotel building being in flames before the fire department was called.

The first person in the hotel to be aroused was Miss Martha Kalish, of New Bedford, who was sleeping with her companion, Miss Nellie Haderoft, of Fairhaven, in a room at the rear on the third floor. She was awakened by the crackling of the flames and saw the light flaring in the window. With a scream she jumped out of bed and aroused occupants of nearby rooms. So rapidly did the fire gain headway that neither of the girls had opportunity to save any of their clothing and were obliged to dash from the hotel in their night-gowns.

The hotel watchman, Thomas McKeon, had only a few minutes before made his rounds and found everything all right. He was in the hotel lobby when he heard Miss Kalish's frantic calls, and he at once sounded the alarm throughout the hotel, arousing Mrs. Hayes, the proprietor, who, with the other employees, succeeded in getting all of the guests out of the burning building safely, although many of them were obliged to leave without any effort to save their personal belongings.

The alarm which aroused the community was sounded from Box 37, located at the junction of Centre and West Chester streets, by Carlton West, one of the taxi drivers. With one or two other cars he had been awaiting the return of a party from a dance which was being held on Coatsue, and as he started to drive through North Water street he saw the heavens lighted up. Driving as fast as he could he reached the nearest box and sent in the alarm. About the same time another taxi driver, Chester Barrett, noticed the fire and he drove to the central fire station, arriving there about the same time the alarm came in on the bells.

It was very gratifying how quickly the firemen responded with the apparatus and to the motor-pumper and its crew great credit belongs for the manner in which they handled the fire and succeeded in getting it under control at a time when it seemed as though the entire structure was doomed.

By the time the pumper reached the scene the fire had eaten its way through the roof of the kitchen and was licking the west side of the hotel building. Stopping at the nearest hydrant, the pumper's crew made connection, but unfortunately in drawing the apparatus ahead so as to straighten out the suction pipe, the connection pulled out of the hydrant.

This necessitated shifting to the hydrant further down Easton street and the loss of about five minutes in getting water onto the fire, but when the pumper once started to work she kept steadily at it and pumped without a break for over two hours, throwing a heavy stream onto the fire at all times.

The No. 4 steam fire-engine did good work once it got started, but she had a bad start. The fire was lighted under her boiler when the apparatus was pulled out of the engine-house, but the kindling had evidently absorbed a lot of moisture from the fact that the engine had not been used for a long time, and when the steamer ran up to the hydrant at the foot of Step Lane she had no fire at all under her boiler. It was necessary to split up a barrel and start a new fire, which took considerable time. However, once she got steam up the No. 4 did good work.

As for the other steamer—the No. 1—which was brought up from Orange street when the second and third alarms were sounded, that particular piece of apparatus proved that she is practically worthless. With only a small amount of water in her boiler when she started for the fire, things were getting quite exciting when she was placed at the top of North Shore Hill to get onto her job and it was discovered that her water feed did not work and that a brisk fire was burning under an almost empty boiler. So the No. 1 was out of commission at the start, which was just about what Chief Hull predicted would happen, when he was endeavoring to convince the Finance Committee last winter that there was need of more fire-fighting apparatus in Nantucket.

The hose companies and hook-and-ladder outfits were on hand, however, and the response from the members of the department was most gratifying. It was an emergency and everybody rallied well to meet it, residents and summer visitors joining with the members of the regular department in the battle ahead. And it was a battle!

From the start it seemed as though nothing short of a miracle could save any portion of the hotel and sparks were flying up into the air and being scattered in all directions, thus endangering near-by property. Weather conditions favored, however, for there was only a very light air stirring, and Nantucket was indeed fortunate, for had there been a good stiff breeze at the time, from any direction, it would have meant a serious conflagration.

Sparks flew over the town as far as the corner of Centre and Broad streets in one direction, and as far as the hospital buildings on West Chester street in another, while the meadows adjoining the hotel building on the east were deluged with burning cinders.

But at no time was there any excitement or anything resembling a panic. Summer visitors and hotel guests took hold with the firemen and the residents and fought the flames together. There was a spirit manifested which was enlightening to no small degree. Even the hotel guests who had been driven from their rooms scantily clad and had lost their belongings, took hold willingly and helped combat the flames, or else assist in the removal of some of the hotel furnishings.

What a mass of confusion it was in the vicinity, not only from the fire and water, from the charred wood and the mud, but from the trunks, suit cases, clothing and furniture which was scattered around everywhere. Some of the guests, after they emerged from the burning building and learned that everybody was safe and nobody injured, donned what raiment they could find or borrow and sat on their trunks or grips and complacently watched proceedings. And what grotesque pictures they made!

Some of them were bare-footed—many were without clothing other than their night raiment—but none was hysterical. There was no screaming or moaning—nothing that resembled a panic in any way. Everybody watched the progress of the fight against the flames with interest and with real encouragement, and the department was complimented on every hand for the efficient manner in which the work was carried on.

For two hours the battle raged and at several times it seemed as though the firemen would be obliged to abandon their efforts to save the hotel and devote their attention to the sparks and glowing cinders which were flying everywhere. But the firemen kept at it, some of them climbing to the tops of adjacent trees with their hose, from which point they could play water advantageously onto the burning building.

Others fought the fire from the interior or from the roof, and they faced the heat and smoke unflinchingly. Chief Hull handled the fire in a most creditable manner and his two assistants—William J. Blair and Archibald Cartwright—had a force of helpers up aloft who worked untiringly. It was well done and when it was seen that the east section of the hotel was to be saved from the flames and that the fire was actually under control after two hours of hard work, the crowd was not slow in expressing appreciation.

Out at the pumping stations the engineers were on duty and had direct pressure flowing through the mains within five minutes after they received the alarm over the wire. At both Wannacomet and Wyer's Valley stations the engines were kept pumping for two hours and a half and upwards of 200,000 gallons of water was forced through the mains. The pressure on the mains was far more than generally predicted and although the motor-pumper handles over 400 gallons per minute she had plenty of water to draw from throughout the two hours of pumping.

Embers From The Fire.

One of the most pleasing things which followed the fire Saturday morning was the spirit which manifested itself throughout the community—a spirit of co-operation and desire to help out in the emergency that had arisen. Mrs. Hayes, proprietor of the ill-fated Point Breeze, lent all assistance in her power in getting her guests located elsewhere, and the other hotels made efforts to provide accommodations as best they could for those who desired to remain on the island. Many residents who are not in the habit of "renting rooms," at this time voluntarily offered to accommodate some of the former Point Breeze guests, and a number of summer residents did likewise. As a result, "rooms" were made available in distant sections of the town and comparatively few of the hotel guests left the island because they could not get quarters.

It is interesting to note the manner in which the young ladies train themselves to meet emergencies nowadays. When the alarm of fire came and realizing that the telephone lines would be kept busy, Miss Gladys Ray, chief operator of the local exchange, went down to the office and assisted the night operators in handling the calls as they came in. Everybody was speaking of the excellent service rendered the community by the telephone company that morning.

Another instance of "service first" was the fact that Miss Priscilla Coleman of her own volition, as soon as the alarm was sounded and the ex-

tent of the fire realized, went down and opened up the "information bureau" on Main street, not only to answer questions, but to assist people in obtaining accommodations.

Strenuous efforts were necessary in order to prevent the cinders which showered on the Grouard residence, near-by, from igniting the roof. Situated within very few feet of the cottage and kitchen which were burning, the residence was really in serious danger at one time.

The full crew of the motor-pumper reported for duty promptly and worked every minute until day-light. Carl Satler and Lester Simmons joined with the crew and got just as wet and grimy as the rest. Chief Hull and his assistants, down to the last man, deserve all the commendation they are receiving for doing a remarkable job.

Coming in the early morning hours, without any opportunity for them to save their belongings, it was not surprising that some of the hotel guests appeared in strange costumes. One lady had a rubber on her right foot, but the left was bare; that she wore pajamas was evident, and she readily accepted a man's jacket for warmth.

A man came hurrying down to the street making explanations. He wore the old-fashioned night-shirt (like President Coolidge) and he had just time enough to jump into his trousers and escape to the street; that the trousers were on "back side to" did not bother him a bit.

Two young ladies wore their kimonos over their night-gowns, but they were bare-footed. From the second story a variety of articles were being thrown out, among which were some shoes. The girls were glad to accept any of the foot-gear, even if the shoes were not mates and were man-size.

One man stood on the grass on the opposite side of the street, muttering "Well! Well!" He held a hair-brush in one hand and in the other a pin-cushion.

Another young man had evidently tried to smooth out his hair on the way out from the burning building—but he had neglected to tuck his shirt inside of his trousers!

Some ladies wore their caps and kimonos; some were fully gowned, even to their walking sticks. But then some had more time to dress than the others.

One man furnished quite a lot of amusement as he strutted around through the crowd. He was evidently looking for his wife, who had preceded him in the hasty exit from the hotel. He was fully clothed in his pajamas, and under his arm he carried his wife's corsets.

Two old ladies were as calm and matter-of-fact as anyone. "There is always something to be thankful for," quoth one. "We are all alive!" "Yes," said the other, "and wasn't that a nice supper we had last night."

One rather elderly man brought his grip with him when he left his room, but it was empty. He left his clothing behind him. He simply grabbed his bag from force of habit and saved it, too.

The crew of No. 4 steamer did good work under their captain, Horace C. Orpin, working faithfully within the burning building and aiding materially in handling the fire.

AUGUST 15, 1925

"Moby Dick" Destroyed In Early Morning Fire.

The "Moby Dick" Restaurant, operated by Clement H. Reynolds in conjunction with "The Inn" in Sconset, was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, August 5. The damage, as the result of the blaze, which left only the shell of the building, has been estimated as unwards of \$40,000. Officials stated that careless smoking was the cause of the blaze.

It was discovered about 2:30 Sunday morning by one of the restaurant waiters, who was going along Ocean Avenue on his way home. The Nantucket Fire Department quickly went to the aid of the Sconset firemen. However, there was little they could do, other than confine the flames within the building itself. When the smoke had cleared away, some two and a half hours later, all that remained were the outside walls. The interior was completely ruined, the greatest destruction being in the downstairs dining room where the fire evidently had its inception.

Any other night in the week the "Moby Dick" would have been open until one o'clock and it is more than probable that some of the personnel would have still been there. However, since it was Saturday night, the restaurant had closed at midnight and everyone had left the building.

Gene Bianco, a harpist who, as a player of popular music on the harp, has appeared on the Ed Sullivan TV program, had arrived only on Saturday and had made his first appearance at the "Moby Dick" Saturday evening. His harp, valued at \$3,000 and not covered by insurance, was lost in the fire.

The building and its contents, fortunately, were covered by insurance, but there is not enough money in the world to replace the things of sentimental value which Mr. Reynolds had acquired during the past 20 years and which were destroyed. A few things were salvageable, however. Among these were several framed pictures, of which two have since disappeared. It would be greatly appreciated by Mr. Reynolds if whoever has them would return them to "The Inn".

Mr. Reynolds promptly began to make plans Monday morning to rebuild the "Moby Dick" from the ground up. The old building had historical value as it was originally the Siasconset Railroad station, but there is nothing that can be done to restore the structure.

The guests at "The Inn" are having their meals at the "Beach House" through the kindness and cooperation of Mrs. C. Eugene Sweeny, who offered the facilities of her hotel to Mr. Reynolds. A miniature "Moby Dick" has been set up in the former dining room and lounge of The Inn and Thursday afternoon it was ready for business "as usual".

Photographs of the fire will be found on Page 5 of this issue.

The Nantucket Fire Department has had three other calls this week. About midnight Saturday night it was called to Madaket to the residence of Mrs. Irma Meyer. A fire had started in the grass outside the house and had made considerable headway along the cornerboards and shingles. It had surrounded her oil storage tank which was decidedly warm when the firemen arrived. The blaze was quickly extinguished. The amount of the damage has not yet been released.

At 5:45 Monday morning Box 34 was sounded at the corner of Easton and Walsh Streets for a fire at The Mad Hatter. This fire was caused by the ovens in the kitchen stove of the restaurant and the floor below igniting from the overheated cement. Damage was slight, but a definite figure of the amount was not available.

During the heavy northeast storm Tuesday evening the rain beat in around the windows at the home of Mr. Francis W. Thomas on Hallowell Lane and soaked the base plugs near the floor, causing the wiring to sizzle. The Fire Department was promptly called and the impending danger of fire eliminated immediately.

Aug. 11, 1956

Grass Fire Burns Nearly 3 Acres

The Fire Department was called out at 11:45 yesterday morning to extinguish a grass fire at the property of Thomas H. C. Giffin on Somerset Road. The fire was caused by sparks from an incinerator and spread over an area of about three acres before it was extinguished.

Word of the fire was telephoned to the Central Fire Station by Mrs. Giffin. Box 153 was sounded and two engines were sent to the scene by Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett.

March 6, 1959



—Bill Haddon Photo

NANTUCKET CASUALTY—Gene Bianco, New York musician, inspects \$3,000 harp ruined in Sunday morning fire at the Moby Dick Restaurant at Nantucket. Bianco, married to the former Mary Mongeau of Brockton, said the instrument was insured.

N.B.

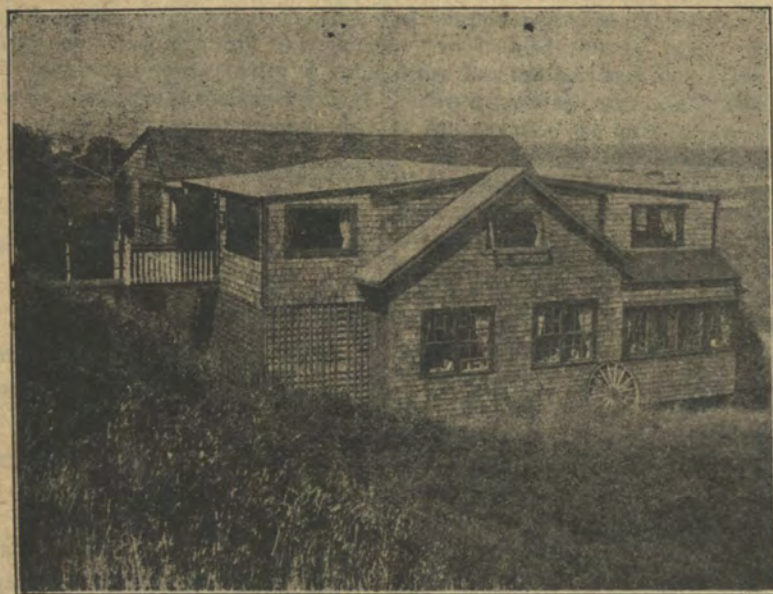
Fire Engine in Accident During Storm Thursday.



HEAVY SNOW CHANGING TO RAIN hampered the workers as they attempted to pull Nantucket's new fire engine back onto the Polpis Road Thursday afternoon. The picture above shows the precarious position of the engine, which probably would have rolled into the swamp had it not been for the utility pole against which it was resting.

March 10, 1959

THE MOBY DICK - - Before and after Sunday, August 5



The popular restaurant before the disastrous fire of Sunday morning.



Photo by Gordon Winslow Jr.

The Moby Dick at the height of the fire.



Photo by Gordon Winslow Jr.

A view of the south side, showing only the shell remaining.



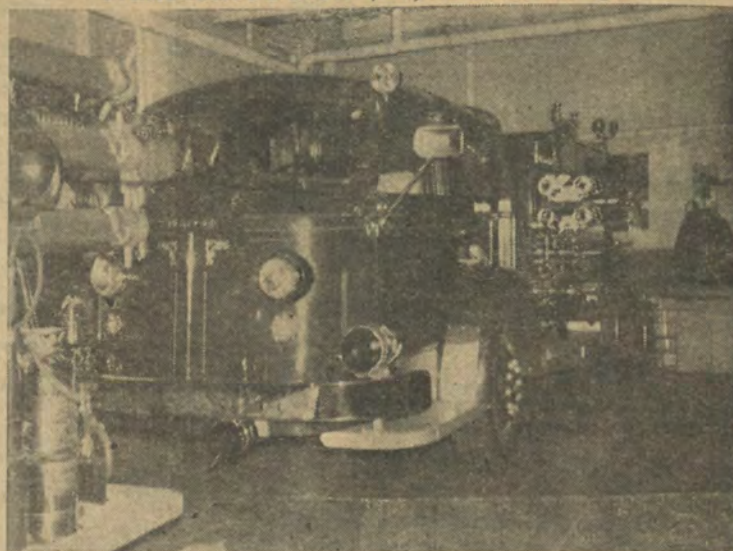
A view of the lounge where thousands enjoyed excellent entertainment nightly.



Photo by Gordon Winslow Jr.

The morning of August 5 only charcoal remained.

Nantucket's New \$27,500 Fire Engine



Shown above is the newest piece of fire apparatus to be purchased by the Town of Nantucket. The new engine was constructed by the American-La France Company at a cost of \$27,500., the funds for the purchase having been appropriated by the 1957 Annual Town Meeting.

During the past week the drivers and men of the Nantucket Fire Department have been familiarizing themselves with the operation of the new engine, which has many features not found on the older equipment. Friday morning pumping tests were made from a position on Commercial Wharf.

At the left, Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett is shown inspecting the new engine.

Efficiency Of Nantucket Fire Department Increased With New \$27,500 Pumper

Efficiency of the Nantucket Fire Department increased several fold with the arrival Tuesday of a new, streamlined fire apparatus capable of pumping at the rate of 1000 gallons a minute.

Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett and regular and volunteer members of the department beamed on inspecting the new piece of apparatus, the custom-made product of American-La France, from Elmira, N. Y. Also looking over the new equipment, the first of its kind with a cab for seating at least five men sheltered against rain, snow, sleet and other inclement weather in racing to a fire, was retired Fire Chief Archibald Cartwright.

Appropriation for the new pumper which includes funds for equipment such as firemen's hats, rain gear, spotlights and hose was made at last February's annual town meeting. Chief Bartlett hopes it is the forerunner of apparatus to replace outdated, old apparatus now housed at the Central Fire Station.

One of the modern features of the new apparatus is that it is equipped with foam and "wet" water, not available in the other equipment here. The "wet" water, redundant as the term may sound,

has the characteristic of being able to penetrate into burning material such as a mattress, rags or peat, quickly and efficiently to extinguish the blaze. Foam is the more efficient liquid in fighting blazes such as oil fires, Chief Bartlett said.

Before the new apparatus arrived, all the Nantucket Fire Department had in that line was a manually-operated dry power apparatus that was connected through a fire pumper to the hydrant but was seldom used because it was inefficient.

The new pumper, first in a series by American-La France on what the well-equipped fire department of the future will have to protect its community, also features three pre-connected 1½ inch lines and two booster reels with inch hose.

High-pressure fog spray equipment connecting with the booster reel lines, capable of up to 600-pound pressure operation, are available to quench small fires and for "mopping-up" blazes.

This new type of firefighting plant on wheels also is equipped with generator for lighting and a portable pump. Its power plant is a Kohler of 1½-kilowatts, AC current.

Chief Bartlett said the department's old light plant may eventually be placed in Sconset which, in 1955, got a new La France Ford 500-gallon pumper to provide that village with greater firefighting power and efficiency.

Awkward, heavy, wooden ladders on fire trucks are a thing of the past. The new apparatus has a light, aluminum ladder capable of stretching to a height of 35-feet—ample for scaling the roof of the average Nantucket building.

Another feature of the new truck for which LaFrance designed its own chassis has front and rear suction connections which will facilitate hook-up to hydrants or at ponds near blazes where water hydrant facilities are not available.

A 275-horse-power motor which Chief Bartlett says is capable of powering the elongated truck at a speed of about 60 to 68 miles an hour is housed just to the rear of the cab. Regular drivers will handle the wheel.

Other equipment in the fire department now besides the new pumper and the 1955 one placed at Sconset include a 1930 LaFrance 1000-gallon pumper, a 1925 LaFrance 750-gallon pumper which Chief Bartlett would like to replace in about two years with a new one; a 1936 500-gallon LaFrance Ford pumper; a 1949-500-gallon LaFrance Chevrolet pumper; a 1937 500-gallon Farra pumper and a 1929 LaFrance hook and ladder truck. The latter, Chief Bartlett said, needs to be replaced also but must be retained until a new one is provided because it carries necessary equipment—ladders, resuscitator and light plant.

Chief Bartlett said a "must" this year for the department is the addition of two-way radio equipment which he has been seeking for several years. Cost to the town is estimated at \$3,000 to \$4,000, matched by the Federal government under the Civil Defense program.

New Fire Engine Arrived Tuesday.

Nantucket's new fire engine, resplendent in its bright red coat, with shining steel fittings, rolled off the ferry-steamer "Nantucket" Tuesday and was promptly installed in its new home at the Central Fire Station. Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett and other members of the Fire Department were on hand at Steamboat Wharf to meet it.

This is the most modern piece of equipment and has all the latest features to combat the worst type of fires.

It was manufactured by the American LaFrance Company at their plant at Elmira, N. Y., and cost the town \$27,500. It is the cab over engine type of vehicle with room enough for two men besides the driver on the front seat. The cab is separated from the rear part of the engine by sliding glass panels which can be opened while on the way to a blaze to give instructions to the firemen.

The vehicle is 36 feet long but has a shorter wheel base than most fire engines and can turn around in 24 feet. This will be a great aid in Nantucket with its sharp corners and narrow streets.

It is what is called a 1,000-gallon, triple-combination pumper with both a complete foam system and wet water system. It also has a tank to carry 750 gallons of water which can be used for brush fires where no hydrant is available. The engine came completely equipped with aluminum ladders, flood lights, spot lights, hand extinguishers, hose reels, reduction couplings, fire helmets, and rubber coats.

The engine traveled on a railroad flatcar to Boston from Elmira and then was driven over the road to Woods Hole by Everett Maloney, Massachusetts representative of the LaFrance Company.

Mrs. Swain Suffers Burns In 'Sconset Fire

Mrs. Esther Swain, 28, of West Sankaty Avenue, Siasconset, suffered third degree burns of the left hand, arms and chest early Sunday morning after the bedclothes covering her and her husband, Joseph M. Swain, 29, caught fire while they were sleeping.

Mrs. Sarah Morris, mother of Mrs. Swain said that her son-in-law had retired earlier than his wife and that after Mrs. Swain retired she decided to smoke a cigarette and fell asleep while it was still lighted.

The cigarette fell on the blankets and apparently smoldered for some time before they burst into flames. The fire aroused Mr. Swain who jumped from the bed pulling the burning bedclothes off his wife who was semi-conscious from the burns and smoke inhalation.

Mr. Swain assisted his wife from the room and then rescued his son, Joseph M. Jr., 5, who was asleep nearby in his crib. He then returned to the smoke filled room and threw the sheets and blankets outdoors to prevent the house from catching fire.

Mrs. Morris said it was fortunate that the back door leading to the bedroom and the windows were open or all three might have been overcome by smoke inhalation while still asleep.

Mr. Swain administered first aid to his wife and later drove her to the Nantucket Cottage Hospital where she was placed under care of Dr. Charles Sziklas.

Fire Department Kept Busy; But Fires Not Serious

The Nantucket Fire Department was kept busy over the past weekend but fortunately most of the calls were of a minor nature.

Everyone who heard Box 49 sound just before 7 a.m. Sunday was apprehensive when they found that was the number for the Island Home, a large two and a half story wooden structure, which houses a number of bed-ridden and elderly patients.

Two engines in charge of Assistant Chief John Hamblin responded to a telephone call received from Mrs. Stanley Slosek, registered nurse and head of the infirmary. Rubbish was being burned in an incinerator located in the basement and the fire door either was left ajar or was blown open by a back draft. Smoke drifted to the upstairs floor and was smelled by the night nurse, Mrs. Barbara Viera, who reported it to Mrs. Slosek.

When Mrs. Slosek saw smoke coming from an unused chimney flue she promptly made the call to the fire headquarters as a precautionary measure. Chief Irving T. Bartlett, who checked the incinerator the next morning, said a back draft had sent the smoke up the unused flue.

Last Friday, Box 65 was sounded about noontime for a small grass fire in Mill Hill Park, opposite the Old Mill. Chief Bartlett said it was probably caused by a carelessly discarded cigarette or cigar and the fire was extinguished before it had a chance to spread.

A few minutes before 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, Box 147 was blown to indicate a fire in Siasconset. The all out signal followed within a few minutes. Chief Bartlett said it was a false alarm rung by a little child, who was caught in the act.

About 10 a.m. Monday morning, Box 293 was sounded when a short-circuit sent out wisps of smoke from the motor of a washing machine in the home of J. Mac Thompson, of Hinckley Lane. When the machine was disconnected the danger of fire was eliminated.

Fire in Main Street Store Promptly Extinguished

The Nantucket Fire Department responded to an alarm for a fire which occurred in the oil heater in Bill Haddon's Photo Shop at 25 Main St. at 10:25 this morning, and extinguished the blaze without difficulty.

If the fire had occurred at night the damage could have been severe, as the photography shop is contained in the block of stores between Federal and North Union Streets, all of which are actually connected. In this block are located "The Hub" periodical store, The Emporium gift shop, Robert R. Leske, Jr., real estate office, Bill Haddon's photo shop, and Murray's Liquor Store.

The apparatus was recalled to the scene by another alarm at 11:00 a.m. when it was found that the fire had again broken out in the chimney. Some smoke and water damage was caused to the Photo Shop and the Leske Real Estate office, due to soot-filled chimneys.

Fire Department Called Twice On Last Day of Year

The Fire Department was called out twice within a period of about 20 minutes last Saturday morning to answer alarms sounded for the Island Home on Lower Orange Street and the Nantucket Coin-Op Laundry that fronts on Straight Wharf. Both calls were needless.

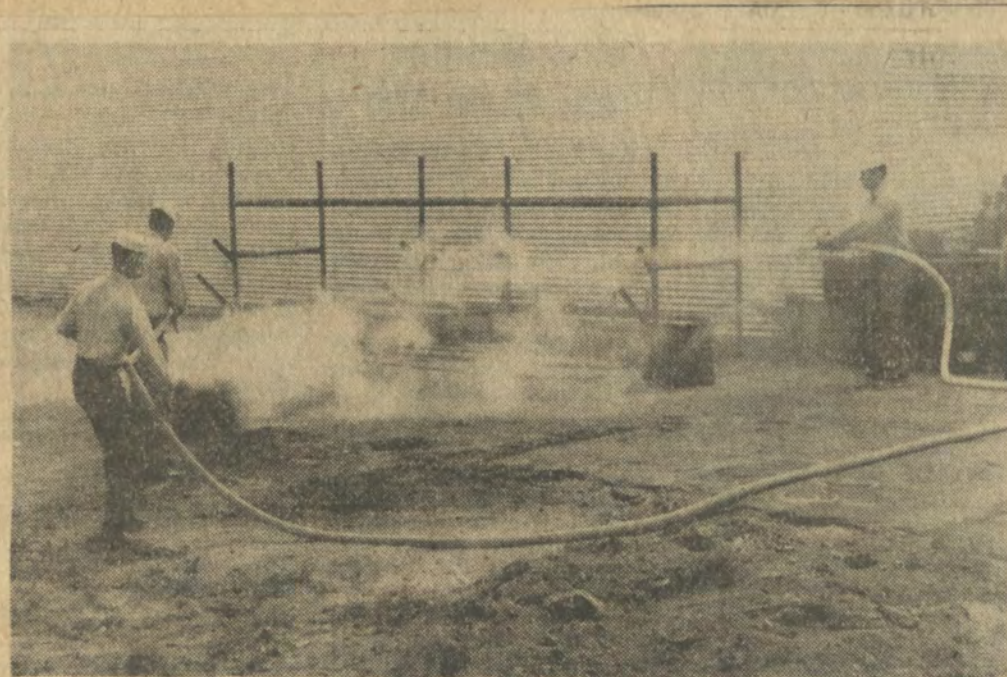
Box 49 at Our Island Home was sounded at 11:15 a.m. when a worker accidentally drove a nail into the fire alarm circuit wire in a wall at the Home. Mrs. Esther Francis, Supervisor at the Home, and the practical nurses quickly assured the patients there was no fire. The apparatus was returned to the Central Fire Station as soon as it was ascertained there was no fire.

No sooner had the apparatus been backed into the firehouse when a call was received from Box 31 on Straight Wharf. It was found that there had been a flare-back in an oil hot water heater in the boiler room of the Coin-Op Laundry, causing a cloud of smoke to enter the laundry room. There was no damage.

This was the last alarm sounded in the year 1960 for the Fire Department.



Rescue Markers are distributed by Nantucket Firemen. Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett, right, and Driver Stewart Mooney show Elwyn Francis Jr., India Street, the fluorescent Rescue Markers being put on the homes of handicapped persons to enable faster rescue in case of fire.



FIRE DRILL—In approximately two minutes after alarm was given U. S. Navy firefighters had responded to the call, put out hose lines and had water on a simulated fire of oil and rags in a metal barrel at Nantucket Naval Facility.

The fire drill was one of the events staged by the sailors at open house on Armed Forces Day at the U. S. Naval Facility at Tom Nevers Head, Nantucket.

'Sconset Cottage Severely Damaged By Monday Fire.

The worst fire of the year caused considerable damage to the roof and interior of an unoccupied two-story summer cottage on 'Sconset's North Bluff Monday afternoon shortly after 3 p.m. The cottage is owned by Henry L. Newman, of Colorado Springs, who had been on the island for several weeks and had just left that afternoon for Colorado.

The fire apparently started in a first floor bedroom, cut a blazing path up the wall to the second floor and mushroomed out under the roof. It was discovered by Mrs. Edwin P. Dew-

ing, a summer resident next door, who heard the crackling of the flames. She investigated and saw flames from the windows of upstairs rooms. Mrs. Dewing called the Fire Department and 'Sconset firemen, under Deputy Chief John Santos rushed into action.

Two alarms were sounded in town and three pumpers were dispatched by Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett. Lack of a strong breeze aided firemen in keeping the fire confined to the Newman cottage.

Careless disposal of a cigarette, said Chief Bartlett, was the probable cause of the blaze.

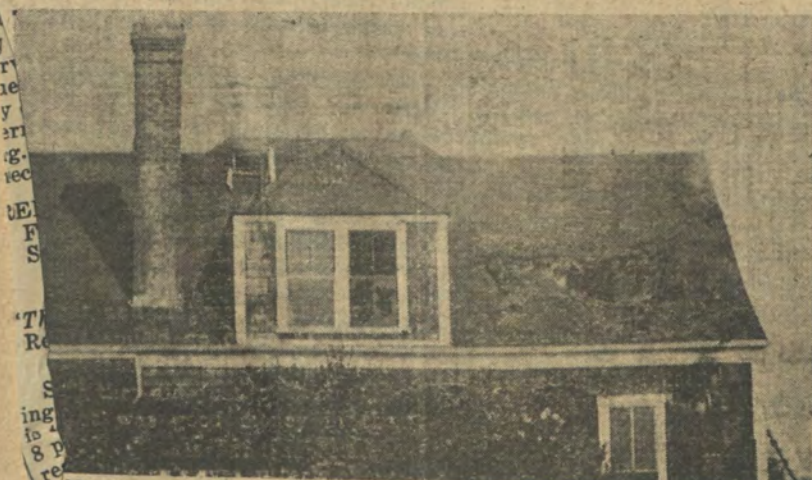


Photos by Gordon Winslow, Jr.

A portion of the crowd which witnessed the fire at the Newman home.



Heavy smoke impeded firemen at the height of the blaze.



Newman home after the fire, showing part of the damage to the roof.

Firemen Quell Wind Whipped Grass Fire

Head of a match that broke off as Stanley Rowley attempted to light it, ignited a grass fire which strong easterly winds whipped towards a residential area before firemen brought it under control Tuesday afternoon.

A patch of several hundred feet of dry grass was burned but the blaze was halted in its path as it raced towards homes in the Saratoga Lane area. Mr. Rowley's home is close by on the south side of the burned patch area.

Mr. Rowley, active outdoors despite his advanced years, and his son, Horace, fought the blaze until firemen with two pumpers, including the new \$27,500, 1000-gallon-an hour pumper, reached the scene and quickly placed the sweeping fire under control.

Mr. Rowley had halted in the course of an outdoor chore to light a cigar. He said he struck the match on his clothing but the head fell into the grass, igniting it.

Brant Point House Damaged By Near-Midnight Fire.

A fire of undetermined origin caused considerable damage to a two-story, wooden-frame cottage located at 5 Walsh Street late Saturday night.

The blaze was observed by Mrs. John T. Ellis, a summer resident, from her cottage across the street shortly after 11 o'clock. She immediately telephoned the Central Fire Station and a box alarm was sounded.

The two pumpers and the hook and ladder truck were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival the fire fighters found the fire had started from the first floor in the front of the house and was roaring between the partitions up to the second floor.

Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett stated that the firemen had the blaze under control within 15 minutes after they had reached the house. A crew stood by until 1 a.m. the following morning to make sure the fire did not break out again.

The house belonged to John Clark of Worcester and was unoccupied. The amount of damage was listed at more than \$1,000.

The Fire Department was called out to Quidnet last Friday afternoon shortly after five o'clock when a car, belonging to V. A. Doning, of the Tom Nevers Head Naval Facility, got stuck in the sand. While trying to get out, the car became overheated, and the hot tires and exhaust ignited the dry grass. Fortunately for the residents of the village, the wind was blowing toward Sesachacha Pond and the fire was extinguished with no damage to anything other than the automobile which was completely destroyed.

Oct. 5, 1957

Quickly Extinguished

The Fire Department was summoned Saturday morning to extinguish a blaze in a storage shed located in the rear of a house on Swain Street owned by John J. Simpson.

Assistant Chief John Hamblin, who was in charge of the fire fighters, said he believed the fire was caused by spontaneous combustion in a pile of rubbish in a corner of the shed. He said the heat was so intense that it melted electric light bulbs and porcelain fixtures. A celotex ceiling prevented the fire from burning the roof but that side walls and doors were charred.

A folding cot mattress, several chairs, and two kitchen sinks and a cooking range stored in the shed were damaged. Assistant Chief Hamblin said damage estimated to be in the vicinity of \$1,000 was covered by insurance.

The property was formerly owned by Robert B. Blair, who used the space for his electrical business shop for many years. Mr. Simpson purchased the property a short time ago.

The fire was discovered by workmen in Albert Silva's garage which is adjacent to the Simpson house. The fire was brought under control within 15 minutes after arrival of the ap-

paratus but the firemen remained at the scene for over three-quarters of an hour.



Photo by S. Day

Nov. 3, 1961

Fire Department Has Busy Week

The Nantucket Fire Department had a busy time the first of the week, with four calls received at the Central Fire Station, two of which turned out to be false alarms.

At 7:55 a.m. Monday, Box 42 was sounded for a fire in the engine room of the fishing boat "Madeline" owned by Peter Grant of Nantucket. The boat was tied to the small Gas and Electric Company dock between Commercial Wharf and Island Service Wharf. The alarm was sounded by Arnold Duce who noticed smoke seeping from the hatch and wheelhouse. The fire was confined to the engine room and was caused by a short circuit. Chief Irving T. Bartlett said the major damage was to the wiring on the engine.

At 1:30 a.m. Tuesday the first of the two false alarms was rung from Box 47 at the corner of Orange and York Streets. A few hours later, at 3:45 a.m., the firemen again had to leave their beds when Box 44, at the corner of Union and Francis Streets, sounded and again it turned out to be false.

The Fire Department was again called out on Tuesday at 8:55 a.m., to extinguish a fire in the engine of an automobile owned by Mrs. Devens Parrish of 35 India Street. Chief Bartlett stated the fire was caused by anti-freeze mixture falling on a hot motor. He reported the damage to the car was slight. Box 22 at the corner of Centre and India Streets was sounded for this fire.

Sept. 8, 1961



NANTUCKET HOUSE DAMAGED — Captain Clarence Swift of the Nantucket Fire Department plays a hose stream on burning furniture and debris tossed from the front room of a house

owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barrett, of 65 North Center Street. Extensive damage was caused by the fire.

Fire Department Called Twice Last Saturday

The Fire Department was called out Saturday morning to extinguish a grass fire at the Walter F. Glowacki Company sand pit off the Old South Road and was called out again later in the day for a fire in a barn on the property of Miss Mildred Jewett at Madaket.

Box 493 was sounded at 11:35 a.m., when a report was received at the Central Fire Station that there was a grass fire on the Glowacki Company land. The fire burned a small area and was extinguished within a few minutes after arrival of the firemen.

About 3:30 in the afternoon a telephone call was received at the station reporting that a small building in back of Miss Jewett's house was burning. Box 126 was rung and two engines were sent on the 6-mile run to Madaket.

The barn, used by Miss Jewett for the storage of furniture and lumber, also contained a quantity of dried beach grass which she used for bedding for her dogs. There was no

chance of saving the old structure. The firemen managed to keep flames from spreading to other buildings. Water was pumped from Hither Creek for use in fighting the fire.

Assistant Fire Chief John Hamblin directed the firemen. He said that the fire could have been spontaneous combustion.

Miss Jewett was not at home when the fire started. She said she was told of the fire by Herman Minnow who called the fire department as he saw it. Miss Jewett said Chauncey Chappell also saw the flames, and called the department. The property was not insured.

During the early part of the fire, Richard Whelden, a fireman, received a bite on the hand when he attempted to move one of Miss Jewett's dogs away from the blaze. He was treated later by Dr. Charles Sziklas, who took five stitches to close one of his wounds.

Firemen remained at the scene over two hours and gave the ruins a thorough dousing of water to make sure it would not start again.



Firemen play a hose on the smoldering ruins of a barn belonging to Miss Mildred Jewett of Madaket that was destroyed by fire last Saturday afternoon.

Photo by S. Day

Apr
27
1962

Riley Rules Nantucket Ladder Truck Off Road

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Aug. 13—After 32 years in action, it appeared today the island's ladder truck must be permanently retired from service. Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett is still negotiating to obtain new brakes for the old truck so that he can get it

back in action.

The knockout blow that can mean that service is permanently ended came last night when secretary James K. Glidden read a letter from Registrar of Motor Vehicles Clement A. Riley to Representative Robert F. Mooney (D-Nantucket) advising that, "Under no condition can this vehicle be operated on the highway until the brakes are repaired."

Representative Mooney had been requested by the Board of Selectmen to appeal to Registrar Riley for a temporary safety sticker which would permit the use of the vehicle in an emergency until the brakes were repaired.

Earlier in the meeting, Fire Chief Bartlett revealed he was still negotiating with a Boston firm to make new brakes for the truck. He said the estimated cost at the present time for the new equipment was \$2,500, but there were indications that it would be considerably higher.

The apparatus was ordered off the highway by Registrar Riley after two of his inspectors, Clyde Blackwood of Martha's Vineyard and Arthur S. Davis of Nantucket, had tested the brakes and found that they did not meet requirements of his department.

In his letter Registrar Riley further noted, "It is impossible to issue a temporary permit for the use of the hook and ladder truck of the Nantucket Fire Department."

"The registration has been suspended because the brakes of the vehicle do not meet the requirements of the registry. Two of our men have given it every test possible and have refused to recommend its operation."

"Under no circumstances can this vehicle be operated on the highways until the brakes are repaired. I am very sorry I cannot co-operate with you and issue a permit to allow the vehicle to be operated."

Robert Stark Thanks Firemen For Lack of Water Damage

A letter was read to the members of the Nantucket Firemen's Association at their Sunday night meeting from Mr. Robert W. Stark in which he expressed his appreciation with the manner in which the Fire Department handled the fire that occurred at his home at 90 Main Street.

Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett said a check for a substantial amount was sent with the letter as a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Stark to the association.

Chief Bartlett said Mr. Stark remarked in his letter at the slight water damage that was caused in extinguishing the blaze and complimented the firemen for the cleaning up work they did at the house. He said it seemed more like neighbors coming in to help them than just firemen with a job to do.

Fire Causes \$300 Loss To Clothing Shop

A smouldering paper trash box in the rear of the Summer sports-wear shop of George Stinchfield on North Beach Street erupted into a blaze which spread to shingles of the building about 11 Wednesday night, causing damage estimated by Chief Irving T. Bartlett at \$300.

Firefighters fought the blaze for about 45 minutes. The \$300 loss included smoke damage to some clothing contents of the shop. The building is owned by Lawrence Miller.

Chief Bartlett said careless disposal of a cigaret may have been the cause of the blaze.

The fire burned out sash of a rear store window, caving in the glass. Three pieces of apparatus responded to a telephone call and box alarm given by W. Marland Rounselle. He and his wife, Lee, an employe of the shop who reside near it on Harbor View Way, were out walking with their dog when they saw the fire. Mr. Rounselle telephoned in the alarm and while Thomas Hamblin, in bed at the Central Fire Station, was getting dressed to sound the station horn, he also ran and rang a box alarm from Walsh and Easton Streets.

Stark Mansion Damaged By Fire

Sparks from a fireplare believed to have ignited oil-soaked tinder nearby set fire late yesterday afternoon to the second and third stories of the old, historic three-story mansion of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Stark at 90 Main Street but the blaze was controlled by fire fighters in slightly more than an hour.

The blaze which raced up the second-story wall next to the flue to the third story attic caused substantial heat and smoke damage.

An alarm shortly before 5 p.m. sent fire apparatus to the scene on both floors. The first story was undamaged.

While there was no official estimate of the damage, it is believed it will run to several thousand dollars, all of it covered by insurance, and it was not until 6:12 p.m. that the blaze was under control. Nevertheless, Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett maintained a fire watch at the scene until 9 p.m. as a precautionary measure against another outbreak of the blaze from overheated, rock-wool insulated walls.

Mr. Stark said his wife had started a fire in the fireplace of a second floor bedroom and gone downstairs to the kitchen. Ten minutes later she returned to find the wall ablaze.

Mr. Stark said he could only surmise that sparks had ignited the oil-soaked tinder in a wood container next to the fireplace.

Early Morning Mystery Fire Destroys Garage

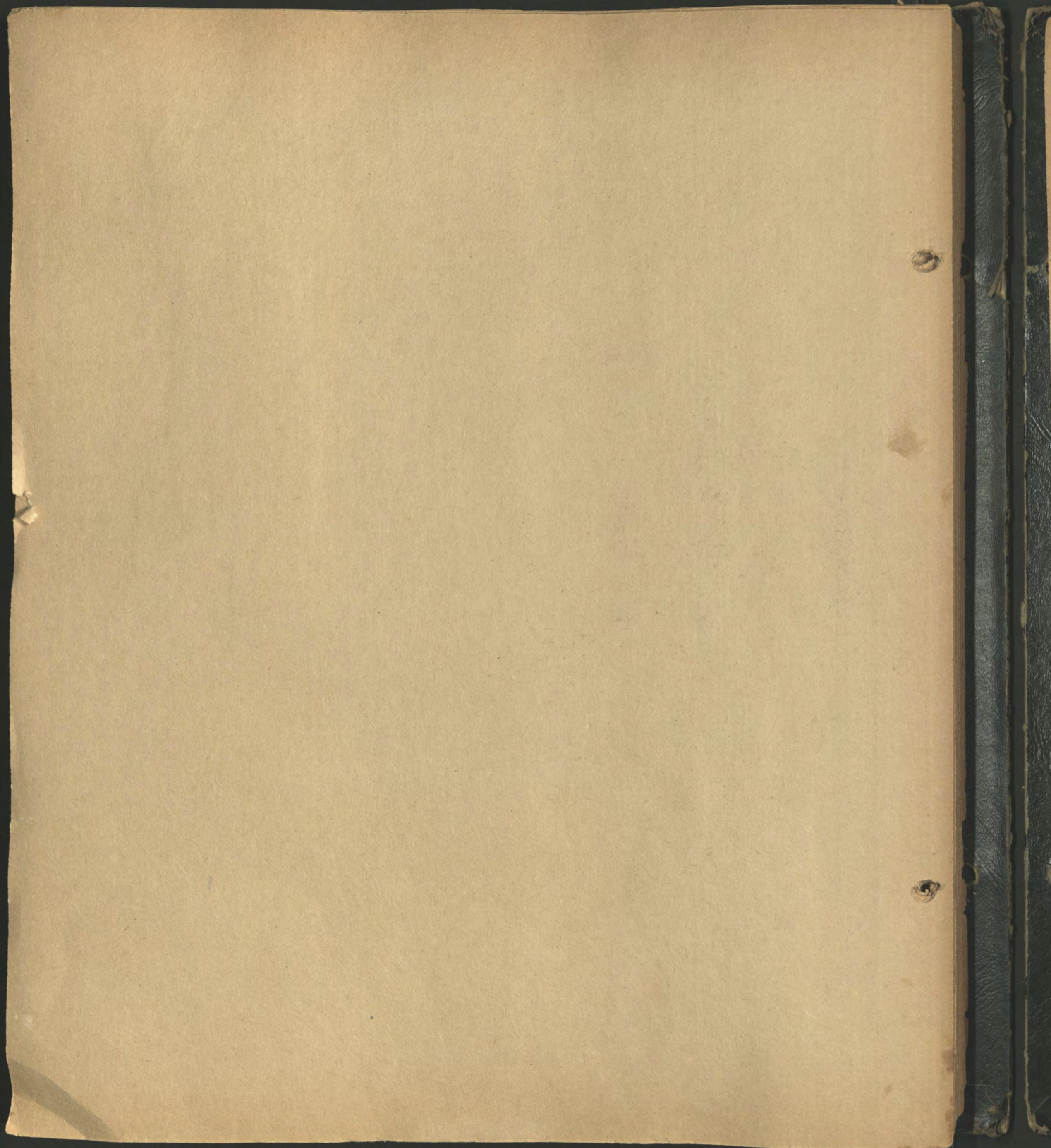
An early morning fire Monday completely destroyed a small one-car wooden garage with a shed attached on the grounds of Green Chimneys on Lincoln Avenue. The fire was of undetermined origin and consumed a quantity of summer furniture and five bicycles that were stored in the garage and shed.

The house and property is owned by Mrs. Lyster C. Reighley and was occupied this summer until Sunday morning by Mrs. Reighley's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Albert McIntyre and their family. They left the island Sunday morning to return to their winter home at Montclair, N. J.

Mrs. Reighley stated she had left her home at 5:40 a.m., Monday morning to see another daughter off on the boat and there was no sign of a fire at that time. When she returned shortly after 6 a.m., she was startled to see the flames shooting up in the air and a fire engine at the scene with the volunteer crew working to confine the blaze to the garage.

Mrs. Reighley said a neighbor heard the sound of wood crackling and telephoned the Central Fire Station. By the time the first engine arrived, the fire had burst out all over the garage, which faces Capaum Road, and there was no chance of saving it.

Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett said he had no idea what caused the fire and issued no estimate of the damage. The entire loss was covered by insurance.





Aerial Ladder Truck Arrives For Fire Department

(Continued from Page One)

was driven off the steamer by John Haskins, delivery engineer for the Maxim Motor Company of Middleboro, Mass., manufacturers of fire-fighting equipment.

For three years Chief Bartlett and Assistant Chief Seddon Legg had sought to have the ladder truck approved by the town. At the 1960 town meeting the sum of \$34,000 was appropriated for its purchase and last September 21 the contract was awarded to the Maxim Company who bid \$33,995.

The truck was driven directly to the Central Fire Station where the smaller ladders were placed in their proper position. These aluminum ladders were sent here in advance of the truck and are of all lengths from 50 feet down to a short 14-foot ladder.

On hand at the station to view the new apparatus were Selectmen James K. Glidden and Arthur L. Desrocher, Finance Committee Chairman Andrew E. Lowell and Captain Clarence Swift and Lieutenant Allan McGarvey who are in command of the ladder company.

When the inspection was complete, Mr. Haskins drove the truck to Westminster Street, in front of the Academy Hill School, where he proceeded to show Chief Bartlett and Drivers John Gaspie, Jr., and Stewart Mooney, how to operate the aerial ladder.

When the 75-foot ladder was extended its full length into the air it appeared to be taller than the school building. Chief Bartlett also tested the radio and loud speaker equipment as well as the siren. The loud speaker will enable the Fire Chief or any one in command of the department at the time of a fire to give directions to the men even though they might be on top of a building or several houses away.

All drivers will receive instructions on the operation of the truck before Mr. Haskins leaves the island. The truck is 36 feet, 2 inches long and is constructed on a Ford chassis.



Photos by S. Day

Aug. 18, 1961



Photo by Bill Haddon

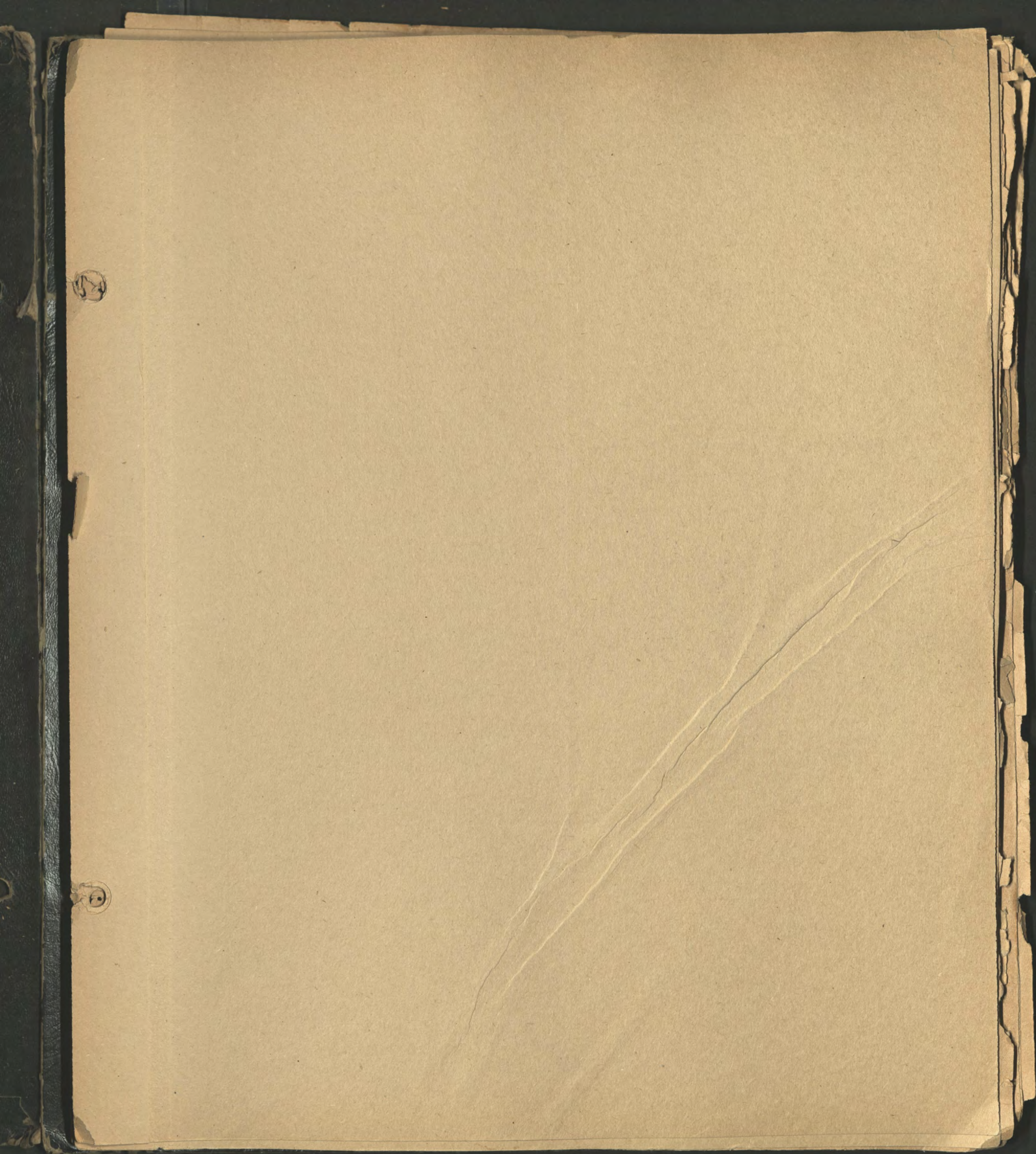
President Freeman King, of the Nantucket Firemen's Association, left, presents a walkie-talkie radio to the Fire Department in behalf of the Association. Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett, right, accepted it for the department. The radio was obtained from the proceeds of two Tag Days held by the Association last summer.

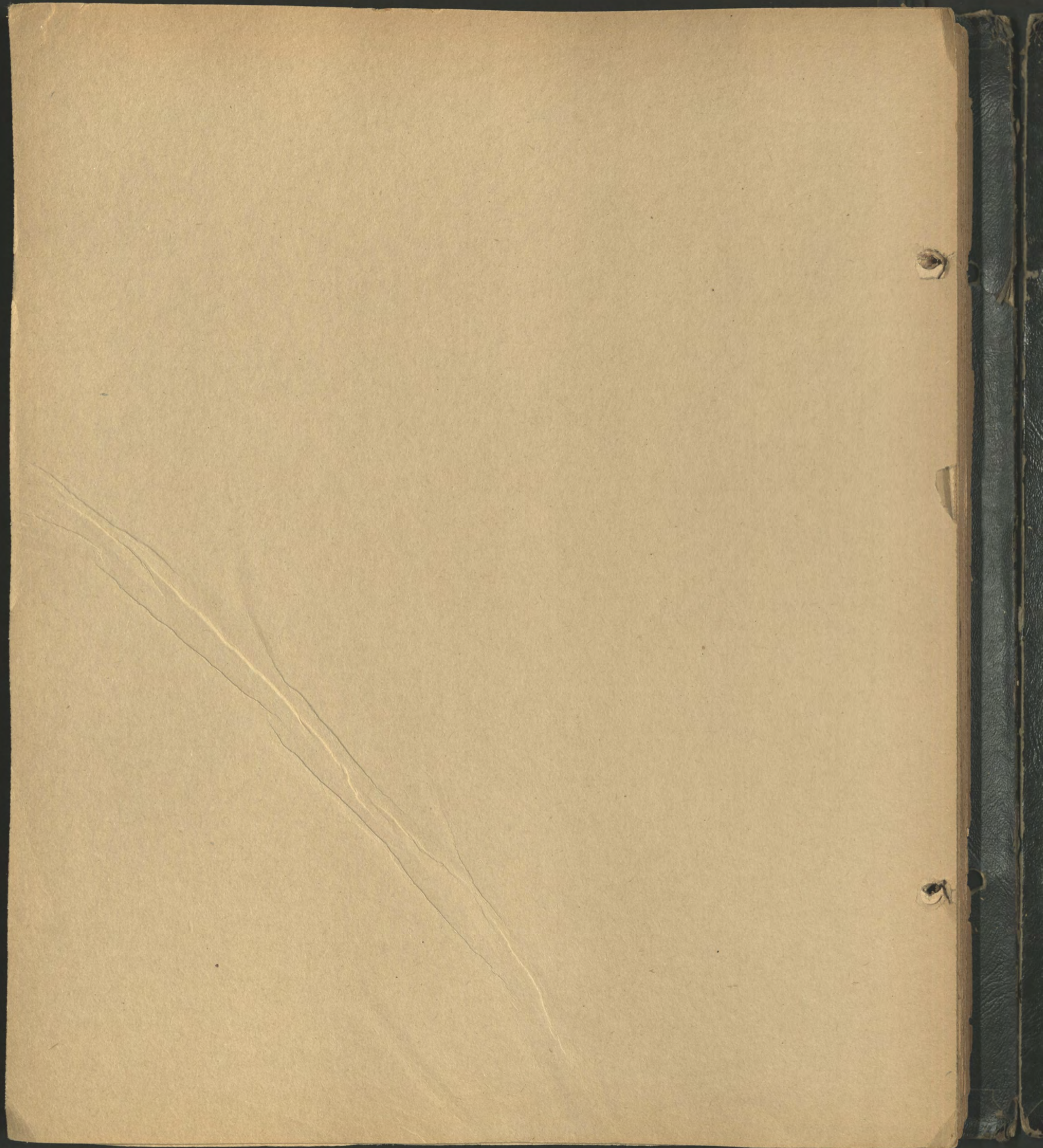


Photo by Bill Haddon

District Scout Commissioner Edgar T. Lindstrom, center, presents the renewal charter of Troop 95 to Freeman King, president of the Nantucket Firemen's Association, sponsors of the troop, as Charles Ferreira, right, Institutional Representative, looks on.

Mar. 31, 1961





Our Alms-House.

The appearance of the large, white mansion at the foot of Orange street, surrounded by its well-kept grounds, gives to the passing stranger an idea of neatness, health and comfort; and this opinion is greatly strengthened by a close inspection of the building, wherein the old and friendless are provided with all the comforts necessary to render their declining years days of contentment.

The visitor is first ushered into the keeper's sitting room, a place well stocked with books and pictures, comfortably furnished, and provided with the luxury of an organ. This apartment is in the front and center of the house, and stretching out on either side into the long white wings are the sleeping rooms for the inmates—the men in the north and the women in the south division. These rooms are large. The ventilation could not be bettered by a sanitary engineer, and cleanliness is the characteristic common to all. In the basement there are two long dining rooms, a large kitchen and washroom, furnished with all the modern improvements made possible by scientific plumbing, and a smoking room, where the old gentlemen gather on the long winter evenings and tell stories of exciting adventure on old whalers, long ago.

From the rear of the house an elegant view is had of the town and harbor, as fine as from any position on the cliff.

A large hennery and vegetable garden are kept on the sloping lands back of the house, from which the inmates have a daily supply of fresh eggs and vegetables. Those who are able amuse themselves by doing light work in the garden, which is of great physical and mental benefit to them.

The oldest to enjoy the shelter of this hospitable house is Margaret Burns, a colored lady, ninety-five years old. She is usually occupied with sewing, and it pleases her to think that she is doing something for her companions. One old gentlenan, Francis Wetherhote, has been in this house for forty-six years, and was an inmate for a short time, of the old house at Quaise, previous to its destruction by fire. All the inmates old and young are loud in their praises of their kind treatment and of the fatherly care taken by the town agent, Mr. Hiram C. Folger, and of the kind attention of keeper Fisher and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Williams To Fill "Island Home" Vacancy

The appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Williams of Madaket, as maintenance man and cook at Our Island Home, was announced Wednesday by James K. Glidden, secretary of the Board of Selectmen.

The appointment was made at a special meeting of the Board held Monday night after the Board had conferred with Mr. and Mrs. Williams. They entered upon their new duties Wednesday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams fill the vacancy caused by the resignations of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Furlong, who held the posts of keeper and matron of the home for the past eight years.

Under the new set-up announced by the Board two weeks ago, the town has applied to the State Department of Public Health to convert the home from an infirmary status to that of a medical center. This will eliminate the positions of keeper and matron and supervision of it will be placed in the hands of a registered nurse.

Mr. Williams will receive a salary of \$150 a month as maintenance man and Mrs. Williams will be paid \$166.66 a month as cook. They will have their living quarters at the home.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have operated the Candy Kitchen on South Water Street during the past few summers. Mr. Williams has been presently employed as a painter.

Our Island Home Approved As Public Medical Institution

On Tuesday the Governor's Council approved the application by the Board of Selectmen to designate Our Island Home as a public medical institution, according to Secretary James K. Glidden. After proper organization the Home should begin to pay its own way, he said.

The Home will be eligible for State and Federal grants to cover two thirds of the cost of operation.

All patients will be eligible for Old Age Assistance or Disability Assistance and a daily rate of \$750 will be charged. Chronic illness patients will be cared for at the Home instead of having to send them to Barnstable hospital, Mr. Glidden explained.

He said under the new setup it would be possible to take in \$52,012.05 income in 1960 against \$11,636 received last year.

Couple Resign From Duties At Our Island Home

It was revealed this week that Mr. and Mrs. Chester F. Williams, of Madaket, submitted their resignations as maintenance man and cook, respectively, at Our Island Home, to the Board of Selectmen on August 8.

The resignations were confirmed by Mrs. Williams who said she was surprised the Selectman had not announced acceptance of the resignations.

In their letter of resignation, they gave as their reasons, "because, under present conditions we couldn't do the work."

In amplification of this statement, Mrs. Williams said there were sharp differences between them and Mrs. Stanley Slosek, a registered nurse, who was named supervisor of the Home by the Selectmen, over work she directed the couple to do.

Mrs. Williams did not detail Mrs. Slosek's orders but said they concerned duties they had not been instructed to perform by the Board of Selectmen when they were appointed to their positions last spring.

Mrs. Williams said she and her husband loved the work and they found the patients wonderful people to care for. "They hated to see us leave," she said.

Secretary James K. Glidden confirmed the report of the resignations and said they were accepted during an executive session held to discuss welfare matters. He said failure to make them public was an oversight.

Secretary Glidden said the Board plans to hire a cook and a man who will serve as both an orderly to the patients and maintenance man about the building and grounds at a weekly salary. Both new employees will be expected to live away from the home.

Residents Of Our Island Home Roll Back The Years At Gay Christmas Party

Residents of Our Island Home not only forget about the clock, but rolled back the years last night as they tripped the light fantastic with all the verve of their younger years at the first organized Christmas party in the Nantucket institution's history.

Gay blades such as 53-year-old Wallace Ross and William Hall, who's a sprightly 88, and such belles of the ball as Miss Ida Porte, 96, Mrs. Annie Davis, 92, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, 87, and 75-year-old former school nurse Mrs. Mollie Sevens had a merry time.

Carol singing, the exchange of gifts, dancing and a buffet sup-

per—complete with the traditional Yuletide egg-nog—featured the entertainment program at which Stanley Slosek, whose wife Mary served as committee chairman, was a convincing Santa Claus.

Sixteen staff members and 21 residents of Our Island Home shared in the Christmas festivities and even those unable to get downstairs to the old dining room were remembered by Santa and his helpers in visits to their rooms.

"Everyone had a part in planning the party," Mrs. Slosek said, "but I'd like to thank Gilbert Burchell, our maintenance man, especially for the part he played in making the affair a success."

Dec. 24, 1959



Mrs. Annie Davis and Mrs. Charles Ryder are shown reminiscing at Our Island Home. Both ladies are members of the Degree of Pocahontas. Mrs. Ryder was recently tendered a surprise party with gifts, ice cream, and birthday cake.

April 7, 1961



Top picture shows manger scene which was arranged in the Island Home front parlor; the smaller picture is of one of the upstairs rooms with the stockings on the mantel.

Photo by S. Day

Dec. 29, 1961

Would Like To Come Back to Nantucket.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

Under different circumstances I believe I might live ten or fifteen years longer, but under present conditions I'll do well to see another Christmas. It doesn't matter much how soon I go, only I don't want to go out until I am ready.

I visited Nantucket in 1864, at the age of 19, and moved the family to Portchester, where my father was. In 1866 I borrowed the money and went to California, and paid it back within a year. A year or two later my oldest brother and I moved the family to California—that is, our father and mother and two sisters—three of the boys, with a little help, following one at a time.

I was steamboat pilot for 35 years on the inland waters of California and was perhaps as well known as any in the business. In 1898, I went under contract to the Yukon river as a pilot, and made good, doing my bit in enabling my employing company, to get under the belt of the rival company, thereby bringing about a consolidation.

Now, in my old age, I find myself in South Florida, partially paralyzed and unable to make a living, and I find it a very trying climate. In fact, the climate, I think, unaided, will get me sure.

I am an inmate of the so-called county farm. There is enough to eat, such as it is. No other meat at any time! no Irish potatoes; sweet potatoes some time; as for pies, cakes or pudding, they don't know what they are. When I was down sick and could not eat the grub, they fed me a delicacy (?)—oatmeal without sugar, and no variation. Only a Florida cracker can live on the grub the way it is cooked.

There are nine inmates here and only one other than myself can read. They have heard of New York, but their world is limited to South Florida, they know no other and don't want to. I'm right on the verge of sickness all the time. It is the food and climate mostly responsible.

My father was Reuben G. Joy and "Deacon" Obed Joy my uncle. I am not addicted to drink or tobacco. I am a perfectly clean old man. I have relations in San Francisco and other places, but I do not seem to interest them.

Now, in the interest of a longer life, I would like to exchange my situation here for a home at "Our Island Home" in Nantucket, if it could be arranged, and my passage paid.

I have two cousins there, if they are living, which I very much doubt, namely, Mary Abby Simpson, living in the Rebecca Nickerson house on Pearl street, and Mrs. Annie Hodge, daughter of Deacon Joy. There are other cousins also.

In the winter months, when it is comparatively cool I am all right, but summer lasts seven months and it's a long drag. I have not been to Nantucket since 1864. When I came to Florida I was headed for there.

W. S. Joy.

Punta Gorda, Florida.

May 1, 1920

"W. S. Joy" to Be Welcomed Home to Nantucket.

There is nothing to prevent William S. Joy from receiving the comforts which "Our Island Home" affords and in all probability his wish to return to Nantucket to end his days will be gratified promptly. The legal barriers, if any existed, to welcoming him here from another state, have been removed, and the resolution passed by the town meeting Wednesday evening gives the agent of the Overseers of Poor the authority to have him taken into the "Home" as a boarder.

Generous-hearted persons to whom his appeal to be permitted to return to Nantucket was pathetic have provided the means to cover the expenses of Mr. Joy in coming from Florida to Nantucket and to pay his board here for some time after his arrival, so that the wish of the aged man to return to the isle of his birth, even though to become an inmate of "Our Island Home" will soon be gratified.

The "W. S. Joy Fund" at this writing amounts to \$479. There are doubtless other persons who will like to contribute to the fund to help the worthy man. If so, we will gladly receive their contributions, large or small. Up to date we acknowledge the following pledges:

Eagleson Robb	\$5.00
Harry A. Tobey	5.00
Jean C. Marion	5.00
Caroline F. Austin	3.00
Mrs. Sidney Mitchell	100.00
William Wallace	100.00
A Friend	100.00
A Friend	100.00
A Friend	2.00
Mrs. Rufus Thayer	5.00
G. Howard Winslow	5.00
William F. Macy	5.00
Benjamin Cartwright	5.00
A Friend	10.00
A. A. S. and C. E. S.	5.00
Capt. B. W. Joy	5.00
Three Pacific Club members	18.00
Islander	1.00
Total	\$479.00

July 31, 1920

W. S. Joy Fund Now \$561.

The total subscriptions received to date for the "W. S. Joy Fund," which is being raised for the purpose of bringing the aged man to Nantucket and paying his board at "Our Island Home" until such time as he will be legally entitled to shelter at that institution, now amounts to \$561.

We understand that Agent Burgess of the Poor Department has sent word to the agent of the county farm at Punta Gorda, Florida, that Nantucket is ready to receive Mr. Joy and it is probable that he will reach here within a few days.

Keeper Chadwick is preparing a room at the "Home" for Mr. Joy's accommodation, which is being fitted up comfortably, and several of our citizens who recall Mr. Joy as a boy in Nantucket are awaiting his arrival with keen anticipation, as well as are those through whose generosity it has been possible for the aged man to accomplish his heart's desire and spend his last days in the home of his boyhood, after a life of wandering over the high seas.

The fund at this writing amounts to \$561, the following contributions being received:

Eagleson Robb	\$5.00
Harry A. Tobey	5.00
Jean C. Marion	5.00
Caroline F. Austin	3.00
Mrs. Sidney Mitchell	100.00
William Wallace	100.00
A Friend	100.00
A Friend	100.00
A Friend	2.00
Mrs. Rufus Thayer	5.00
G. Howard Winslow	5.00
William F. Macy	5.00
Benjamin Cartwright	5.00
A Friend	10.00
A. A. S. and C. E. S.	5.00
Capt. B. W. Joy	5.00
Islander	1.00
George C. Field	10.00
Alfred F. Ray	6.00
Joseph G. Remsen	6.00
Mrs. Clarence LeBus	25.00
Mrs. H. H. Hunnewell	25.00
Miss Collinge	10.00
A Friend	5.00
Mrs. Richard Este	5.00
A Friend	2.00
A Friend	1.00
A Friend	5.00
Total	\$561.00

Aug. 7, 1920

W. S. Joy Comes Home to Nantucket.

Our readers will be interested to know that "W. S. Joy" has attained his heart's desire and has come home to Nantucket to end his days on the isle of his birth, which he left fifty-six years ago. The aged man, whose pathetic appeal for shelter at "Our Island Home" is already familiar to readers of The Inquirer and Mirror, arrived yesterday (Friday) afternoon and was met at the boat by Walter H. Burgess, agent of the poor department, who at once took him to the Home and placed him in the care of Keeper Chadwick and his wife, who have fitted up a comfortable room in the second story of the northwest corner of the dwelling, from which Mr. Joy can look up over the town and watch "the pass" along the state highway to Seonset.

Mr. Joy left Jacksonville, Florida, on Monday last, on the Clyde line, reaching New York on Thursday and coming through on the New Bedford line boat that night. He left no regrets behind him, he said, when he took his departure from Florida, and it seemed almost impossible for him to realize that he was once again in his boyhood home on Nantucket, when he entered Mr. Burgess's automobile and drove through the town on his way to the Home.

"Nothing looks familiar to me now," he said to the writer. "Everything is changed from what I recall as a boy. I can't even tell what streets we are passing through. My! But I am happy to be here and I want to thank all the kind people who interested themselves in my behalf. They are Christians up this way and I know I am going to be happy and contented here. It was

an awful place for an old fellow like me to live—down there in Punta Gorda. The climate is something terrible, and the county farm—well, let's don't talk about it. I had rather not. I had rather think of nothing but Nantucket now I am back here."

By that time the auto had stopped at the door of the Home and Keeper Chadwick came down the steps and grasped Mr. Joy by the hand. "I am glad to see you, Mr. Joy," said he, "Come right right in and I'll show you your room and then you can have dinner. We'll try to make you comfortable."

Mr. Joy climbed up the steps and the expression on his face as he entered the door spoke volumes. He had reached the haven of rest he sought and there he will be able to stay in comfort until the end of life's voyage.

Clad in crash trousers, with a neat blue and white shirt, black tie and black jacket, wearing a panama hat, Mr. Joy showed plainly that he had come from a warmer climate. He is short of stature, bowed with age, but has no use for a cane and is able to walk with quite a brisk step. He has a short white beard and a pleasant, sun-browned face, and—well, he is thankful that he has been able to reach Nantucket—grateful to all who contributed so generously to the fund raised in his behalf, to pay his board at the "Home" until such time as he can legally be entitled to shelter there as a resident of Nantucket.

If you happen to see a man walking up town some day who answers this description, it will probably be "W. S. Joy," or "Bill" Joy, as those who knew him as a boy will probably call him, and he'll be glad to receive a word of greeting.

Aug. 7, 1920

William S. Joy Has Dropped Anchor.

William S. Joy has had his last wish fulfilled—he died on Nantucket, the island of his birth, thanks to the assistance which came so voluntarily from readers of The Inquirer and Mirror last summer, when the aged man sent a pathetic appeal from a county farm in Florida that some way might be provided whereby he could become an inmate of "Our Island Home" and pass his remaining days on Nantucket.

Mr. Joy suffered a paralytic shock last week and lingered until early Sunday morning, when the final summons came and his earthly wanderings were over. Since he came to Nantucket Mr. Joy has been perfectly happy and contented; he has been well cared for and provided with all the necessities of life, as well as many of the little comforts which a man of his years could enjoy.

Happy in the privilege of returning to Nantucket after a long life of rambling over the world, a life of adventure, a life filled with its ups and downs, its successes and its reverses, the aged man enjoyed the few short months that were accorded him since he "came back home" and was ever appreciative of the kindness of those who interested themselves in his behalf.

OVER

His journeys are now over, but although penniless and alone in the world when he came to Nantucket, he did not die friendless, for he made a number of friends about town and there are many who admired the dry humor of the old fellow, who found in him an interesting conversationalist.

Reluctant to talk about his past life, within which there was undoubtedly some great sorrow—something which he carried with him to the grave—Captain Joy (for he held a master's license for Pacific coast waters) would occasionally refer with pride to some of his exploits, and not long ago he wrote the story of a trip he took as pilot up into the Yukon region at the time of the "Klondyke," which was published in these columns.

His pathetic appeal to "come back home to Nantucket" after an absence of fifty-six years, was so unusual that it found a ready response and the aged man himself found the way to set legal matters aside in order that the aged man might become an inmate of the "Home." And his last days were spent in perfect contentment.

After a short funeral service conducted by the Rev. Samuel Snelling, last Tuesday afternoon, all that was mortal of William S. Joy was laid at rest in a lot in Prospect Hill cemetery—not in a pauper's grave, as would have been the case had he remained in Florida. The fund which was raised last summer was sufficient to care for Mr. Joy during his sojourn at the "Home," to provide for nursing and medical attention during his last illness, and also to purchase a cemetery lot. It is probable that there will also be enough money left to purchase a head-stone. And here ends the story of another of Nantucket's real acts of charity.

JANUARY 5, 1921

THE ASYLUM.—We made a flying visit to this institution on Wednesday. There are now fifty-six inmates, mostly elderly people. The house is scrupulously neat, and a general air of comfort and contentment spoke well for Capt. Lawrence and his lady. The hearts of those whom misfortune has reduced to poverty and want should swell with joy that so comfortable a home is provided for them, that they are not, like many of their fellows elsewhere, left to drag out a miserable existence, with none to care for them or administer to their wants.

DEATH FROM INTemperance.—Phebe Folger, formerly Phebe Loveliss, who was instrumental in saving the lives of several of the inmates of the Asylum at Quaise, burned in February, 1843, was found in an old building on Pleasant street, on Wednesday morning, in a state of beastly intoxication, and conveyed to her home, where she died at noon.

Inmates of Asylum Visit 'Sconset.

On Wednesday, by invitation of the railroad management, inmates of the Nantucket asylum for the poor were given an outing here. They were accompanied by the matron of the institution, Mrs. J. R. Sylvia, Mrs. Lewis, an assistant, and Mrs. Wilkes, the cook. There were eleven of the party—all who were able to participate—while those who were left behind were provided with fruit and cream by the agent of the overseers of the poor. The little party to arrive here were: Mrs. Cornelia Coffin, Hannah Meiggs, Mrs. Jane Durand, Mrs. Ann Easton, Susan Alley, Etta Holmes, Cornelia L. Snow, William Luscombe, Charles H. Macy, Benjamin Holmes and Thomas McCann. They came on the train leaving Nantucket at 10, and soon after their arrival were escorted to the bathing pavilion, where they enjoyed watching the bathers in the surf, and where lunch was served for them, Landlord Brinton of the Beach House serving coffee, while others contributed fruit, and cigars for the male portion. Just before 2 o'clock they were taken to the Casino, where Mrs. Corinne Moore Lawson sang to them most charmingly and to their manifest delight, rendering at the request of members of her little audience "Annie Laurie," "Nearer, My God to Thee," "Suwanee River," and Bennie Holmes's favorite song, "In the Sweet By and By," a lullaby, closing the impromptu concert with "Home, Sweet Home," when the little company adjourned to the station and took the train for home.

There were a half dozen or more of the summer colony present, and the pathetic side of the affair touched their heart-strings, and scarcely had the little coterie reached the outside of the building when these ladies collapsed and found solace in tears. Mrs. Lawson was thanked in behalf of the matron and her charges, the railroad company, the overseers of the poor and the residents of Nantucket in general, for giving of her time and talent for the edification of the unfortunates who listened in enraptured silence to her splendid voice in the old-time melodies, and there was not a dry eye in the hall among the other listeners during this song recital.

A sum of money was placed in the matron's hands to be used as she should deem best for the people under her charge. The railroad management was generally commended for its generous act in giving these poor unfortunates an outing. The following morning a large bouquet of flowers plucked from the asylum grounds was received by Mrs. Lawson, with a note attached, which read as follows: "Mrs. Lawson, Siasconset, Mass.

With the sincere regards and thanks of the matron and inmates of Our Island Home for your kindness to us yesterday."

Mrs. Lawson also received a lovely bouquet of asters from the railroad management in recognition of her kindness in assisting them to entertain their guests of the day.

Apr. 14, 1907

As It Was in 1843.

A friend recently came across a very interesting statement, while overhauling some of his ancestor's papers, regarding the conduct of Quaise Farm, then the property of the town, and used as the Poor Asylum. We are permitted to print it as a bit of entertaining reading:

Quaise Farm was purchased by the Town 4 mo 18 1822 at \$6,700. Including five Cows at \$14 each, \$70; forty Sheep at \$1.50; Quaise proper 250 acres; salt meadow 13 acres; 213 acres and peat swamp not named; See Book No. 27, pages 55, 56, 57.

Produce of Farm for 1843 as per account taken by George Myrick and Alfred Folger in 1844, and appraised by them. Overseers that year were Nathaniel Rand and Job Coleman:

One Cow, age 14, value.....	\$14.00
One " " 13, " " " " " "	16.00
" " " 12, " " " " " "	18.00
" " " 10, " " " " " "	20.00
Two Cows, age 9, value.....	38.00
" " " 7, " " " " " "	40.00
" " " 6, " " " " " "	42.00
Four " " 5, " " " " " "	80.00
One Cow, " 4, " " " " " "	20.00
Six Cows, " 3, " " " " " "	96.00
Seven Cows, age 2, value.....	87.00

28 Cows.	
3 Yearlings, value.....	25.00
2 Oxen, age 4, value.....	75.00
4 Steers, age 5, value.....	120.00
2 do., age 4, value.....	55.00
2 do., age 3, value.....	30.00
1 do., age 2, value.....	10.00
1 Bull, age 4, value.....	25.00
1 do., age 1, value.....	6.00

44 head all.	
Swine, 2 Boars, 280 pound.....	28.00
5 Shoats, 600 pound.....	36.00
1 Sow, 200 pound.....	12.00

8, 1080 lbs.	
One Bay Horse.....	20.00
One Horse.....	30.00
Sheep, sheared, 315 at \$2.50 each.....	785.50
Hay, 22 tons Salt, at \$8.....	176.00
20 tons Fresh, at \$7.....	140.00
17 tons English, at \$14.....	238.00

Valuation of Stock and Hay over last year.....	\$2,242.50
Produce by Freeman Atkins, farmer.	\$158.00
500 bushels potatoes at 33c.....	\$165.00
128 Sugar Beet at 30.....	38.40
6 ox-loads Pumpkins.....	12.00
1000 Heads Cabbage.....	20.00
40 bushels Corn at 70c.....	28.00
110 bushels French Turnips at 50c.....	55.00
40 bushels Parsnips at 75c.....	30.00
40 bushels Barley at 50c.....	20.00
4 bushels Onions at 50c.....	2.00
6 bushels Pease at \$1.....	6.00
10 bushels Beans at 60c.....	6.00
30 bushels Cucumbers.....	8.00
100 doz. Squashes.....	10.00
Beets and Melons.....	2.00
60 tons English Hay at \$14.....	840.00
25 tons Salt do., at \$8.....	200.00
15 tons Black do., at \$6.....	90.00
300 loads Peat at \$1.50.....	450.00

1600 Ox loads Manure.....	\$1,982.40
Valuation of Stock over last year.....	158.00

Discount seven tons of Hay to carry them up to 2d m 1.....	\$2,140.40
	74.00

Net produce of farm.....	\$2,066.40
Hay left last year 16 tons.....	
Quaise farm at cost.....	\$6,700.00
Interest on purchase one year.....	402.00

	\$7,102.00
1844 value of farm.....	\$8,500.00
Stock, &c.....	2,242.50

Value this year.....	\$10,742.50
Last year.....	\$7,102.00

Over value.....	\$3,640.50
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1844. CR.	
By amount of produce of farm for 1843.....	\$2,066.40
Whole expense for support of 65 persons at the Asylum, for 1843, deducting for State paupers was.....	2,600.00

Including Keeper and farmer's salary, clothing and every expense.....	\$4,666.40
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Whole cost for support of 65 persons one year, not including the produce of farm, \$2,600, or \$40 each person; or 77 cents per week.

Feb. 4, 1899

QUAISE FARM AT AUCTION.



Will be sold at Public Auction at 10 o'clock, on the 13th of 3d month, (March) in front of Joseph B. Swain's office, that valuable Farm at Quaise, belonging to the Town of Nantucket, containing 225 Acres, be the same more or less, about 16 Acres of which is Salt Marsh, together with the House, Barns, and all other Buildings thereon standing, with all their appurtenances, also the Hay, Farming Utensils, Dairy Furniture, Manure and Stock, consisting of 17 Cows, 1 Yoke of Oxen, 1 pair of Stags, 1 Bull, 5 Yearling Calves, 2 Horses, 1 Colt, and 1 breeding Sow;—Subject to the following reservations and exceptions, viz:—Reserving all the buildings, fences, and appurtenances now occupied by the Poor Department and House of Correction; reserving also the delivery of the Dwelling House to the purchaser for such time as may be necessary for the removal of the Asylum buildings and House of Correction from off the Farm, and preparing them for the reception of their inmates; excepting also the right of a public road through said farm to the harbor; and also excepting a burial ground, containing about a quarter of an Acre; all of which, with the above exceptions, to be sold in one lot, on the following terms: 30 per cent. of the purchase money to be paid in cash on the delivery of the deed; the balance by Note at 7 years bearing interest, conditional that \$400 of the principal shall be paid annually, with the interest then due, and to be further secured by a mortgage on the Farm.

On behalf of the Town's Committee,
THOMAS MACY, Chairman.
GURHAM MACY, Auctioneer.
Nantucket, 2d mo. 27th, 1854.

P. S.—Notice is hereby given that circumstances have made it necessary to change the order of sale of the above property, viz:—

The Farm will be sold in town as advertised, and the Hay, Stock and Farming Utensils, in lots, will be sold on the next day, the 14th inst., at 10 o'clock, if fair weather, if not, then the first fair day, when public notice will be given.

On behalf of the committee,
2d mo 3d, 1854. THOS. MACY, Chairman.

FOR SALE
The house near Mill Hills, now occupied by Mrs. James Law. For further particulars please call on
ELISHA H. FISHER.
Nantucket, Feb 27, 1854

At the adjourned town meeting on Saturday last, a Committee was appointed to consider the expediency of removing the children who are now supported in different families at the expense of the town, to the Poor House at Quaise. We do not believe that the town will vote to pursue that course. It strikes us that it would be one of the most suicidal, unjust, and impolitic measures that this community could adopt. It would be a retrograde movement, which could be attended only with the most evil and pernicious consequences; especially injurious to the children, whom the town are not only legally bound to feed and clothe, but also to nourish and improve to the utmost extent, their moral and intellectual natures. One duty is as solemn and binding as the other. This all will allow; the only question is, will the children possess equal facilities for moral and intellectual improvement at Quaise, that they now enjoy in town. We say nay, and believe the citizens will agree with us. Therefore do we hope the town will vote to let the children remain as they are, subject to the good influences which surround them in the families wherein they are located. In this important matter, every man should vote, as though his own children were the subjects considered.

Feb. 27, 1847

May 27, 1859



LARKIN'S CREW OF PAINTERS AT WORK ON "OUR ISLAND HOME."

The contract for painting "Our Island Home" was awarded to Joseph Larkin and this photo shows his gang at work on the job, using some of the new "safety" ladders which not only make it safer for the men while at work, but are easier to operate than the old-style ladders and "save time."

Mr. Larkin, the contractor, is on the ladder at the right. Seated on the bench is Grafton Gardner, one of the inmates of the "Home," who is the proud possessor of a tall silk hat.

Aug. 27, 1921

"Our Island Home" and its Matron.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

It has been my privilege for more than two years to visit "Our Island Home" nearly every week during my stay in town. Nantucket is proverbially good to its poor—it responds generously to appeals both as a community and as individuals, but no money can ever buy the tender and affectionate care that I have seen shown by the matron of our asylum to its weak or suffering inmates. Conscientious duty, well-performed, we have a right to expect for all paid service, however insufficient the pay may be; but tenderness, sympathy, love, cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents.

The little gifts that are taken to the asylum always seem to appeal to the matron as a personal kindness.

"Oh, yes! I'd love to have that medicine. It will be just the thing for two old ladies I have; what we use is too harsh for them."

"There now! that will be just lovely for so and so. Her feet are so swelled. I will run right up and put them on."

"Peppermints? Isn't that fine? They all like peppermints. I will run right up with them."

Any hardworking housekeeper will realize that "running right up" is often tiresome. It never seems tiresome to the matron. Is it because her feet are winged with love?

When one of the inmates was to be taken away from the island to be cared for at another institution, I chanced to be in the room while she was telephoning to the superintendent of the poor:

"You'll be sure she has a good lunch, won't you? She'll be so hungry before she gets there. And won't you please put in some pickles—she likes them so."

And so on in minutest detail. And all the time I was there she was worrying over this poor woman—"would they be kind to her?—would they let her lie down as often as she wished"—"she needed a bit to eat every now and then—would they give it to her?"

No mother would be more anxious over her precious daughter leaving her for the first time, and yet this woman had been a constant care by night as well as day.

Among the visitors who go often to carry comfort and cheer to the inmates of the asylum is a lady who plays and sings for them. On one occasion an old colored woman, excited by the music, burst into tears, and cried out, "Oh! Mamma! 'Mamma!' And 'Mamma'" drew that grey-headed colored woman into her arms, pillowed her head upon her motherly bosom, and soothed and petted her as she would an over-wrought child.

The matron has often said to me: "How much you have travelled and

how many places you have seen!" And all the time I have been thinking "Ah! mine are only this—world journeys; never have I travelled to such sublime heights of self-sacrifice and self-devotion as you have reached."

The matron's goodness is so spontaneous that she doesn't even know how good she is, and no one, Mr. Editor, will be more surprised than herself at this estimate of her character. Were it not that I soon leave town and shall not see her again for many months, I should not dare to send you this public appreciation. But if my feebleness and half-heartedness in service has been strengthened by contact with this sympathetic, large-hearted nature, may not others find herein a like inspiration.

However that may be, I am persuaded that nowhere on this dear island of ours, will the Christ-child be more joyously welcomed, nowhere will the guiding Star of Bethlehem more brightly shine, than for the humble inmates of "Our Island Home," for the spirit of the Blessed Child dwells with its matron, and the brightness of the star is reflected from her own loving heart.

C. E. S.

Dec. 13, 1913

To be Blinded.

Mr. Henry W. Riddell, of New York, in the interest of a friend, has requested permission from the Overseers of the Poor, through agent Folger, to furnish outside blinds for the Almshouse for the front and ends. The desired permission has been granted, and Mr. Edwin R. Smith has been engaged to put them on. It is a generous deed, and will prove a substantial improvement, which citizens generally will fully appreciate.

Dec. 18, 1891

We were surprised last Monday by the information, that the Town, on Saturday, appointed a Committee to consider the expediency of abandoning the policy of supporting the pauper children in town, and of removing them all to the Asylum at Quaise. Such a change would indeed be most dreadful; we cannot, we *will* not believe that it will ever be sanctioned by the people of Nantucket. Better that the unfortunate children should die at once, than be removed to Quaise—why, fall will at once perceive. We meant to make some extended remarks upon the subject in to-day's paper, but we have not room to do anything like justice to it, and we must defer till Friday what we have to say. Meanwhile, we entreat the parents of the town to look at the matter as they would if their own children were the parties concerned; if they will only do this, the interests, the rights, of the little unfortunates will be in no danger.

Feb. 26, 1847

Christmas at Our Island Home.

There is one institution on Nantucket in which everyone should take a just pride—the large white building at the foot of Orange street, where the island's worthy poor are passing their declining years in peace and contentment. There they receive everything necessary for their comfort from a town which provides for their care and happiness in a liberal manner, and when Thanksgiving and Christmas arrive the inmates of "Our Island Home" are not forgotten in the way of a special celebration. Under its present management, the asylum is conducted in a manner which surely meets the approval of all, but only a personal visit to the institution can reveal the full worth of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Sylvia in the positions of keeper and matron. It is through their efforts and personal attention that the asylum has become one of the model institutions of the state, and Agent Folger of the poor department, who is now serving his eighteenth year in that capacity, and the townspeople in general, should rightfully feel proud of "Our Island Home."

On the afternoon of Christmas Day, we had the pleasure of inspecting the building in holiday attire, and were agreeably surprised at what we saw during the half hour's ramble through the different parts of the house under the guidance of the kind-hearted keeper and his most estimable wife. It was a pleasant visit, and those of our townspeople who have never seen the interior of the asylum cannot fully realize how completely and comfortably Nantucket cares for the inmates.

The culinary department was busily at work preparing the Christmas dinner, and large pieces of fresh pork were roasting in the big ranges, while the smell of the vegetables and other eatables cooking on top was but a hint of what the "spread" would be like an hour or two later, when the inmates were summoned to their Christmas feast.

To aged and feeble-minded persons such an occasion must surely be a noteworthy event, and this Christmas was one of unusual pleasure for them. A large tree had been placed in one of the spare rooms and, adorned with candles, tinsel and other ornaments, was equal in every particular to the Sunday school article. There was a gift for each inmate, ranging all the way from a rag-doll for one of the old women who was in her second childhood, to a pair of gloves and a jack-knife for one of the men. Each person received just what he expressly desired, and in addition there were a number of useful articles and a dish of fruit for each inmate, which had been sent down by the Christian Endeavor Society.

The evening was a round of pleasure and many interested persons participated in the informal entertainment. Songs and instrumental music were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and Keeper Sylvia entertained the gathering with selections on the bright, new accordion which D. J. Sullivan, the leader of the band, had sent him as a Christmas gift. Edgar W. Wilkes

sang old-time songs with guitar accompaniments, Frank H. Thurston played the piano, and Mr. and Mrs. Elliot H. Sylvia, both of whom possess good voices, helped the affair along materially. Not only the inmates, but everybody present had a merry time, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed.

It was certainly an unique but most interesting spectacle that we witnessed, and while the townspeople were delving deeply into the festivities of Christmas-tide, the island's poor were not forgotten and "Our Island Home" was a place of good cheer and contentment—thanks to the efforts of Agent Folger and the kind-hearted keeper and matron.

Dec. 29, 1906

Our Alms-House.

The appearance of the large, white mansion at the foot of Orange street, surrounded by its well-kept grounds, gives to the passing stranger an idea of neatness, health and comfort; and this opinion is greatly strengthened by a close inspection of the building, where in the old and friendless are provided with all the comforts necessary to render their declining years days of contentment.

The visitor is first ushered into the keeper's sitting room, a place well stocked with books and pictures, comfortably furnished, and provided with the luxury of an organ. This apartment is in the front and center of the house, and stretching out on either side into the long white wings are the sleeping rooms for the inmates—the men in the north and the women in the south division. These rooms are large. The ventilation could not be bettered by a sanitary engineer, and cleanliness is the characteristic common to all. In the basement there are two long dining rooms, a large kitchen and washroom, furnished with all the modern improvements made possible by scientific plumbing, and a smoking room, where the old gentlemen gather on the long winter evenings and tell stories of exciting adventure on old whalers, long ago.

From the rear of the house an elegant view is had of the town and harbor, as fine as from any position on the cliff.

A large hennery and vegetable garden are kept on the sloping lands back of the house, from which the inmates have a daily supply of fresh eggs and vegetables. Those who are able amuse themselves by doing light work in the garden, which is of great physical and mental benefit to them.

The oldest to enjoy the shelter of this hospitable house is Margaret Burns, a colored lady, ninety-five years old. She is usually occupied with sewing, and it pleases her to think that she is doing something for her companions. One old gentlenan, Francis Wetherhote, has been in this house for forty-six years, and was an inmate, for a short time, of the old house at Quaise, previous to its destruction by fire. All the inmates old and young are loud in their praises of their kind treatment and of the fatherly care taken by the town agent, Mr. Hiram C. Folger, and of the kind attention of keeper Fisher and his wife.

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Are Enjoying Their Patio.

Through the generosity of both local and summer residents, the folks at Our Island Home are enjoying a recently completed patio. It is constructed of cement with a border of old brick, a ramp for wheel chairs, and places for two beach umbrellas. It is situated on the south side of the building, where the old folks may enjoy the sun throughout the day. The work was done by Louis Ayotte.

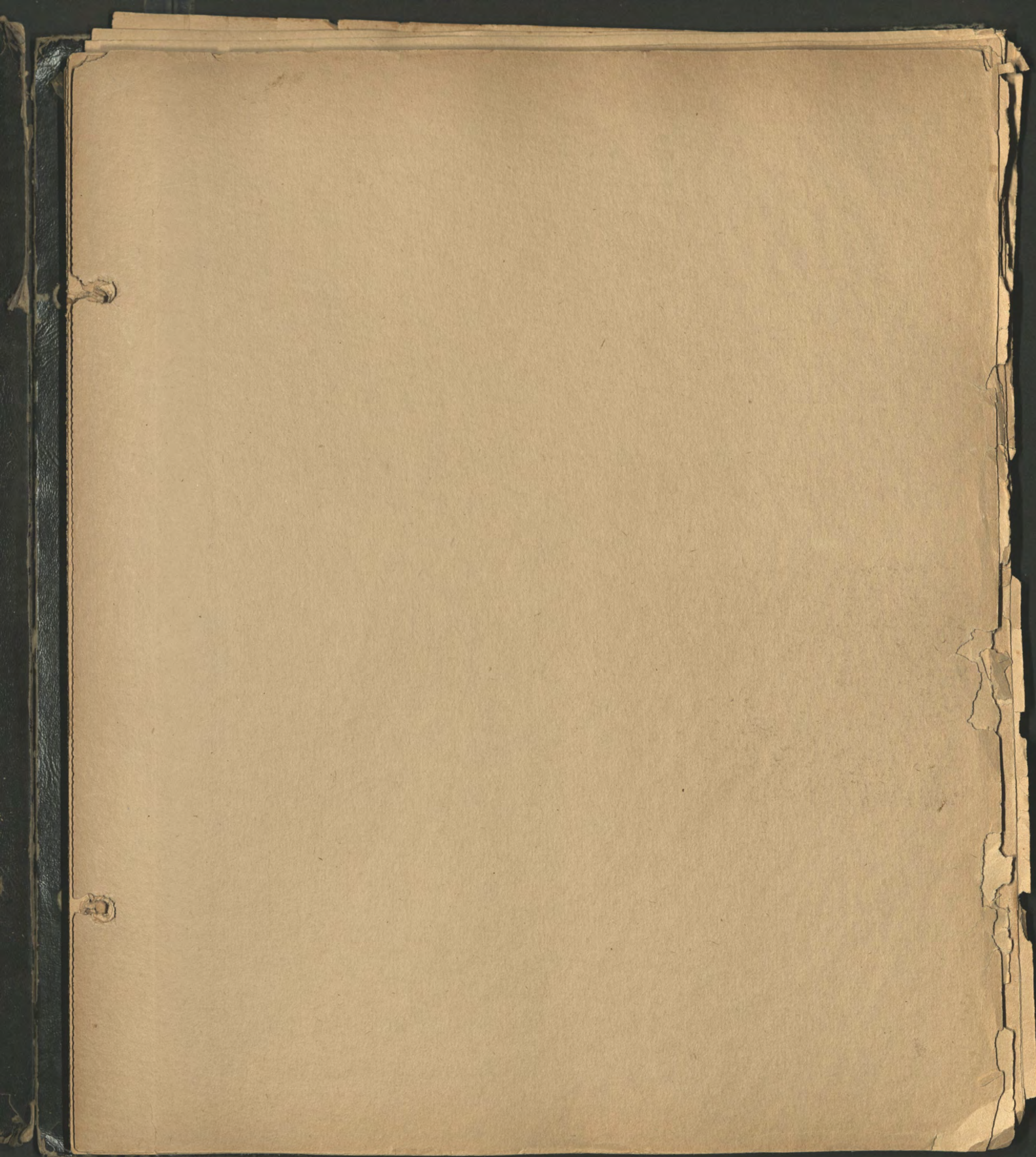
Mr. and Mrs. Furlong and the Home residents wish to extend their thanks to all those who contributed to make this improvement possible.

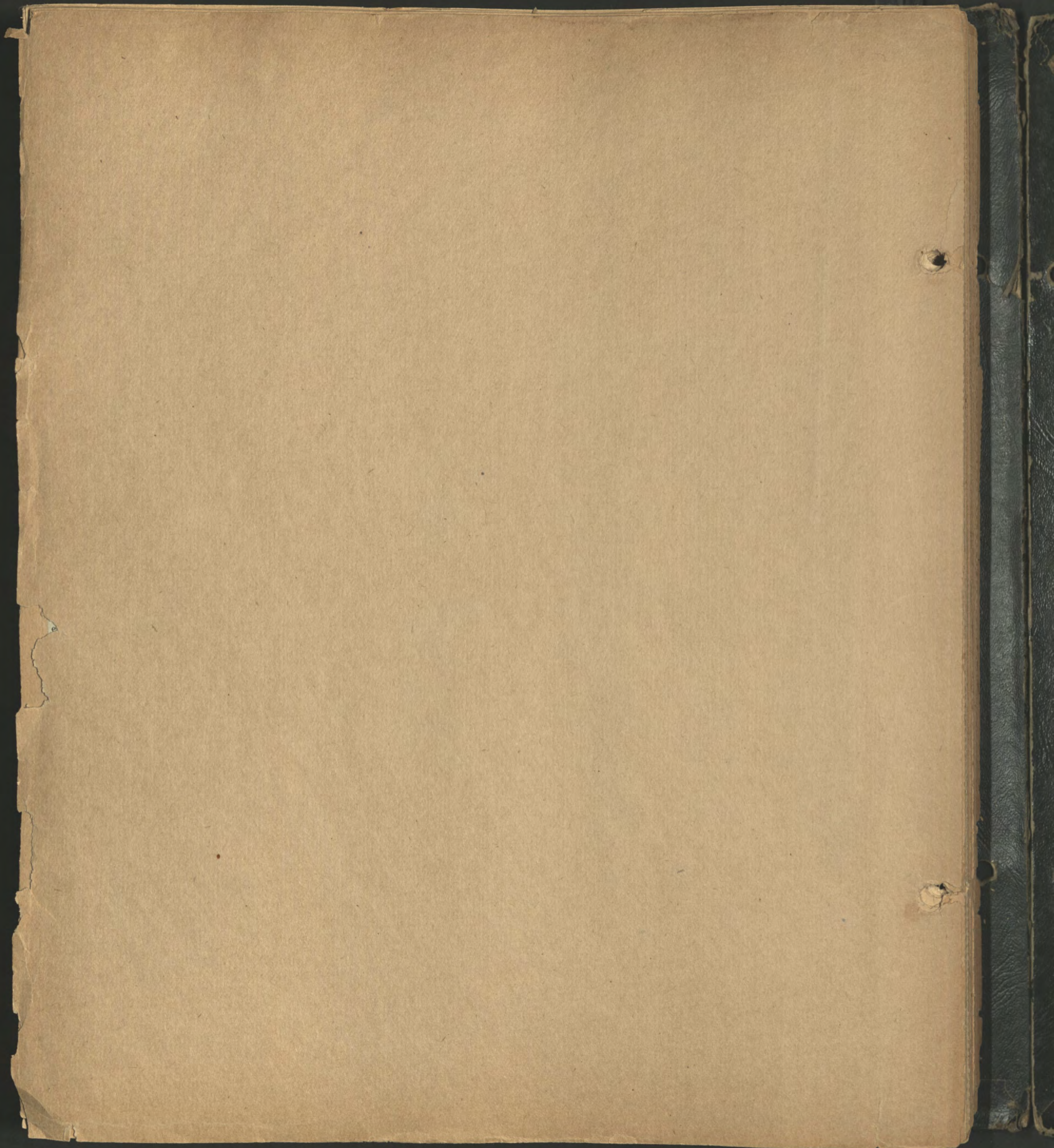
Aug. 18, 1954

ASSAULT.—An inmate of the Poor Asylum named Bunker, whose duty it is to attend the furnaces, took offence Tuesday at the keeper, Mr. Edward G. Coffin, for reprimanding him for negligence of duty, and assaulted him with a shovel, cutting a severe gash in his head. Mr. Coffin grappled with the fellow and succeeded in giving him a wholesome lesson, after which he was committed to the dungeon to meditate upon his rashness. The injuries of the keeper were severe, but not of a serious character. It is said that Bunker has given more or less trouble in the past. If such be the case, now is a proper time to give him requisite instruction in the way he should walk.

Sept 19, 1890

April 5, 1884





Regarding The Forefathers' Burial Ground.

Regarding The Forefathers' Burial Ground.

The fact that the old burial site, where the forefathers of Nantucket found their last resting place, is not to be encroached upon, is gratifying to all Nantucketers. Whether one attorney or another was responsible therefor may be a matter for dispute; and whether it be through set-off by the Land Court or by an old grant of the Proprietors really makes no difference, as long as Nantucket has the assurance that the old burial ground on the hill near Maxcy's pond will not be desecrated in years to come.

To be sure, there are no graves now visible and the boundary lines of the cemetery are not defined, but there may be a way in which the latter could be done, as the records of the Proprietors are said to make such a thing possible. It would seem as though this would be another direction in which the Historical Society could well turn its efforts—that is, if the Proprietors would give sanction to any movement which might be started towards having the burial ground enclosed by either fence or cement boundaries. It would appear from the communication which Franklin E. Smith sent to the Selectmen a couple of weeks ago, that he, as the representative of the Proprietors, would not stand in the way of any movement of this kind.

A few years ago a sufficient fund was raised by public subscription to pay for fencing the Friends' burial ground at the head of Main street and to keep it under "perpetual care." Could not the same thing be done with the forefathers' resting place? Although there is not much left to mark the site of the old burial ground near Maxcy's pond, it should be a sacred spot to all true Nantucketers. Possibly the Nantucket Historical Association, as the proper organization to act in the preservation of things historic to Nantucket, will take the initiative in this direction.

Away back in 1838 a movement was started to raise a fund for the preservation of this same forefathers' burial ground. The idea was to erect a durable fence about the enclosure with cedar posts, and to plant some native trees there. Then the graves of Nantucket's first settlers were still in sight and many of the stones were still standing. That the movement to have the burial ground fenced at that time failed to materialize is most unfortunate. The years that have since passed have now made it impossible to preserve the burial site as it was then.

In connection with this ancient burial ground the following article, taken from the Nantucket Inquirer of September 12, 1838, is of historic interest:

The ancient burial ground where the forefathers of our townspeople were interred stands not far from the road leading to Maticat (Mada-ket) on a little rising ground near Maxcy's pond, and about a mile and a quarter from town. Many of the first settlers lived near the spot, viz: Tristram Coffin at Coppamet, Thomas Coffin at Wattacomet, Nathaniel Starbuck, westward, and Peter Folger at Roger's field, which we believe is very near, being the outer one of a range of lots above what is called the "Jethro Folger lane." We will quote from the author of "Miriam Coffin," what he says about this secluded spot:

"Places more contiguous to the new town were selected to deposit the dead. The head stones of the first fathers, rudely sculptured, but venerable for their antiquity, became moss-grown and ruinous. The inscriptions, however, were obliterated as much by desecration as by the crumbling touch of time. The fences and little grave enclosures were carried off piecemeal, and served for firewood or kindling stuff for the poor, in seasons of rigor or scarcity. The gravestones, in time, one by one, disappeared from the wanton mutilation of unthinking boys, or were upturned by browsing cattle, or by the effects of the severe frosts of the high northern latitude, which loosened and finally ejected them from the bosom of the earth. A few sad memorials only remained at the commencement of the revolution, tottering to decay, and clustering around the sole monument of other times, which at this day remains, deep-bedded in the ground—standing alone, like the last warrior at the Pass of Thermopylae, after all his fellows had been hacked down to the earth."

The stone spoken of was that of John Gardner, which still stands, although a part of the inscription is obliterated. It was, "Here lyes the body of John Gardner, who was born in the year 1624, and died May 1706 aged 82." The name Gardner, with the date of his death, and his age, remain. "It owes its preservation to the induration and unyielding nature of its material—which is of a dark silicious texture—and to the depth of its setting in the ground." There are also foundations of two or three other head-stones which have been broken off near the ground, and one small stone with the initials G. M. marked upon it. There are vestiges of quite a number of graves, the earth having sunk in from the decay of the coffins; and one can see traces where a fence once stood.

The Capt. John Gardner whose monument remains, came here in 1672, and had half a share of land granted him by the proprietors, on condition that he would come with a suitable vessel and supply the occasions of the inhabitants in the occupation of fishing. He came from Salem; and at a subsequent date he was a justice of the peace. Several Nantucket deeds are recorded in his hand writing. At the time of his death in 1706, he was judge of Probate, and had been for some years, having probably been the first probate judge we had in this country. But the records of the probate office here do not extend back farther than

about the time of his death. He had eight children, viz: two sons and six daughters who all married, and all but one daughter left children. Their posterity are numerous, and among them may be found many estimable citizens, and several wealthy merchants and ship owners.

When this ceased to be the only burial ground of the whites, we cannot say; Mr. Macy in his history of Nantucket, has not informed us, but we think about one quarter of the eighteenth century must have elapsed by that period. Probably the early Starbucks, Macys, Coffins, Gardners, Folgers, Colemans, and Barnards, who mostly lived at that part of the island, were there interred. Yet there is not a fence to keep off the cattle or protect the last resting place of the bones of those worthy people, who were quite as pure as the Puritans, and much more charitable in their Christianity. Covered with a dry moss which seems like the personification of sterility, it looks like the place of desolation. Perhaps there may not be found a place in New England, where the ancient burial place is so neglected. We do not perceive any indications that the phrenologists have violated this spot, as they have several of the Aboriginal graveyards; perhaps its vicinity to dwellings, and the time that has elapsed since the last burial, have hindered them from disturbing this place.

Our Fore-fathers' Burial Ground Should Be Enclosed.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

I read with interest your article in last week's issue regarding the above and heartily agree with you that measures should be adopted forthwith to set off and enclose, or at least define with enduring bound marks as a tract sacred from encroachment, this "God's Acre" wherein repose the earthly remains of our ancestors—the pioneer settlers of Nantucket and their immediate descendants.

And I further agree with you that there is no more appropriate organization to take the initiative in this matter than the local Historical Association, whose special province is the preservation and safeguarding of whatsoever links the history and traditions of the past with the memories of today.

You quote from the files of the Inquirer to show that as far back as 1838 the desirability of action to preserve this ancient landmark was engrossing the attention of our predecessors, and if you continue the search through files of a later date you will find the subject has been agitated through the press repeatedly since then, but there it has ended.

Now is the accepted time for concerted action if this neglected spot is to be rescued from oblivion and preserved for future generations against the encroachment and absorption of unsentimental land speculation. I believe I am warranted in stating that the Historical Association stands ready to assume any responsibility and activity in the matter that its resources and local conditions of proprietorship may warrant.

Whether or not the exact bounds and area of the tract are determinable, when and under what conditions it was dedicated to burial purposes, and in whom any authority or proprietorship vests at the present day, are questions to be determined; but I apprehend no one would object to the Historical or any other responsible association assuming jurisdiction and taking measures to preserve it inviolate and sacred to the memory of those who rest therein.

And excepting isolated cases of interment within their homestead enclosures, which doubtless occurred before the setting apart of a common burial ground, the majority of those whose names are associated with the history and development of Nantucket for half a century and more after its settlement by the whites, sleep on the hillside and the hilltop east of Maxcy's pond, where

"The earliest ray of the golden day
On that hallowed spot is cast,
And the evening sun, as he leaves the world,
Looks kindly on that spot last."

In an article entitled "The Ancient Burial Ground," contributed to the Nantucket Weekly Mirror in 1851, Benjamin Franklin Folger, historian and genealogist, makes an urgent appeal to public sentiment, prefacing his remarks with an appropriate stanza, the first line of which reads: "Will ye not mark the spot where your Forefathers rest."

He cites the fact that a few years previous there was standing near the stone of John Gardner and a little to the northeast that of Prince Coffin, a great-grandson of Tristram. Another stone was that of Peter Folger, grandfather of Benjamin Franklin; and others he cites.

The first person buried in the old Gardner's burying ground (Grove Lane) was Abigail Gardner, wife of Nathaniel, in 1709. As her husband was a minister of the society of Friends, it is evident that the latter denomination had no separate burial ground at that date, but when Mary Starbuck died in 1717 the town records tell us that she "was decently buried in Friends' burying ground." Interments in the western burial ground, however, continued for some years later.

In 1883 the writer assisted in the removal of the John Gardner headstone for preservation. It now reposes in the Old Horse-shoe house on Sunset hill, having been replaced by another bearing the same inscription and reciting the fact and purpose of its substitution. I think I am the only one living who was present on that occasion.

Within the past fifty years—perhaps later, a double furrow ploughed around it was claimed to mark the bounds of this ancient burial ground. By whom this was done and on what authority the claim was based I have no knowledge, but possibly traces thereof may still exist or there may be records that will indicate the boundary lines.

I had intended to have something to say this week regarding the Historical Association and its work, but consideration of this matter which you have brought to the front, Mr. Editor, has temporarily sidetracked my article. Meantime, now you have revived this agitation, don't let up. The Historical Association is with you and will cooperate or lead as may be deemed advisable.

Arthur H. Gardner.
Nantucket, April 2, 1923.

The Quaise Burial Ground Located by Mr. Gibbs.

Our story of last week concerning the "Quaise Fire" of 1844, had a very pleasing aftermath, for we have learned that there are several others on the island who know the location of the Quaise burying ground.

The best result of our proposal to definitely locate the burial plot is the fact that there is a Nantucketer who has made it his task to do just that very thing. We refer to James H. Gibbs, of 34 Pine street, who among other things possesses a sworn record of the location.

James H. Gibbs is 84 years young. So familiar a figure has he become in his more than four-score active years, that he is known to many Nantucketers as "Uncle James". He has been janitor of the Athenaeum for nearly a quarter century and bell ringer at the South Tower nearly as long. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs will soon observe the 58th anniversary of their wedding, and "Uncle James" and "Aunt Alice" will be the recipients of hearty congratulations.

Mr. Gibbs was brought up on a Nantucket farm, his father operating the present Coffin farm in 'Sconset. In 1869, he sailed out of New Bedford on the bark "Herald" on a whaling voyage, which experience, he declares, he is always thankful to have obtained.

During the 1880's, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs operated the Harrison Gardner farm at Quaise, and it was at that time they learned many interesting things concerning that section of the island.

It was only last year, that Mr. Gibbs, realizing that he was the only man who had definite knowledge of the Quaise burial plot, had the following statement drawn up before a notary:

Nantucket, Sept. 22, 1933.

To Whom It May Concern.

I, James H. Gibbs, 83 years of age, residing at 34 Pine street, Nantucket, Massachusetts, make the following statement regarding the location of a small burying ground located on what was known as Quaise Farm, and now as East Quaise.

In my boyhood days I lived at Shimmo and attended school in Polpis, passing and repassing Quaise for a period of two years, and as I recall the small burying ground in question was situated on a small knoll near the east line of Quaise and next to the road that was at that time used as a public highway outside of Quaise. The spot was enclosed by a fence and as I recall it was about fifty feet square.

Later on, in the early '80's, I resided at Quaise and was employed for four years by Harrison Gardner who then owned the property. At that time the new road was put through that portion of Quaise, leaving about ten acres east of the present Polpis Road of East Quaise, and in the course of my duties I removed the old fence, placing it on the harbor side of the new road.

In the removal of the fence in question I recall passing close to the burying ground. The fence around the burying ground at that time had disappeared but my knowledge of the lay of the land and general surroundings enables me to locate this burying ground at the present time by measure four hundred and ten (410) feet from a cement post indicating the southeast corner of East Quaise, east along the old road fence line four hundred and ten (410) feet to a small knoll, where I set a cement post, indicating the southeast corner of said burying ground, then at right angles towards the Polpis Road fifty (50) feet to a cement post, thence east fifty (50) feet to a cement post, thence southerly fifty (50) feet to a cement post, thence westerly along the east property line of East Quaise fifty (50) feet to a point of beginning, indicating to the best of my knowledge and belief the burying ground in question. This work I performed at the request of Edgar J. Hollister, present owner of the portion of East Quaise, east of the Polpis Road.

RECORD OF BURIALS.—Mr. Benjamin C. Sheffield, who has held the office of sexton here for the past twenty-two years, is to give place to Mr. John W. Macy, who, it is stated, will carry on the undertaking business in connection with his other duties. Mr. Sheffield, who retires this month, has handed us the following figures, which give the total number of burials by him in each year since 1855:

Number of burials in 1856,	149
" " " 1857,	94
" " " 1858,	104
" " " 1859,	106
" " " 1860,	97
" " " 1861,	104
" " " 1862,	109
" " " 1863,	94
" " " 1864,	129
" " " 1865,	136
" " " 1866,	98
" " " 1867,	94
" " " 1868,	80
" " " 1869,	106
" " " 1870,	98
" " " 1871,	98
" " " 1872,	87
" " " 1873,	113
" " " 1874,	94
" " " 1875,	83
" " " 1876,	96
" " " 1877,	129

Total, 2298

In twelve of the twenty-two years it will be seen that the number of burials fell short of one hundred, while in but five did they exceed one hundred and ten.

A DISCOVERY.—Three grave-stones were brought to the light of day on Monday last, by a workman who was digging on the site of the "George Myrick store," on the North side of the Straight Wharf, which has recently been torn down. One of the stones had the letters M. S. chiselled upon it; the other two had no inscription whatever. They were all of dark, reddish-brown stone.

Johnson Says Boundary Lines Are Defined.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

From the article appearing in the last issue, I believe you have been misinformed as to the facts, as otherwise you would not have said, in speaking of the burial ground at Maxcy's pond, that "the boundary lines of the cemetery are not defined." Before I wrote the letter which appeared in your issue of February tenth, a plot 300 feet square had been surveyed and excluded from the land registered by the Land Court. I then stated:

"The Court's decree and amended plan showing the exclusions mentioned, are now on record in the Registry of Deeds of Nantucket."

Any one sufficiently interested, could have ascertained by inspecting the plan, just where the plot had been set off.

When I first brought the matter to the attention of Franklin E. Smith, I presented to him a copy which I had made, of the Proprietors' Records of October 20, 1838, of which he then told me he had no previous knowledge.

This record was set forth in full in my previous communication, and from which it will be noted the exact location of the burial plot as set off by the Proprietors was indefinite; their resolution being merely, "that the ancient burial ground of our fore-fathers, the first settlers of this Island, at the eastward, of Maxcy's Pond (so called) which is about three hundred feet square, be reserved as a sacred spot etc."

Mr. Smith consented to the exclusion of a tract 300 feet square, from the land he was then registering, and a plot of that size, east of Maxcy's pond, was excluded by the Land Court, as is shown by the plan above referred to. The land so excluded may not be in the exact location as set off by the proprietors in 1838, but it is inclusive of the several graves of which evidence still remains, and is as near the precise location of the original set off as can be determined at this distant date.

My understanding with Mr. Smith was that monuments were to be set in the four corners of this plot, and this being done, and the land surrounding it being registered, it would seem unnecessary to take further steps in the matter, other than possibly to adopt your suggestion of enclosing the plot with a suitable fence.

As the original set-off provided "that any set of men that have a mind to enclose the same with a fence be permitted so to do," no further permission would appear to be necessary, and I will be pleased to be one to subscribe to a fund for the purpose.

Yours very truly,
H. Linsly Johnson.

For the Inquirer and Mirror.
Our Burial Grounds.

I wrote an article for the *Inquirer* in 1838 on the Forefathers' Burial Ground, and it was republished within a few years in the *Inquirer and Mirror*, and by mistake attributed to the late B. Franklin Folger. In that article I recommended fencing that ground with red cedar posts, after it should have been set off by the proprietors as a burial place forever. It was soon after set off by them, but the subscriptions for fencing only amounted to ten or fifteen dollars, so it has remained unfenced.

The first recorded death on the island is that of Jane, wife of Richard Swain, who died Oct. 31, 1662. Tradition says she was buried by her husband under the door stone. Jethro son of Edward Starbuck and a son of Thomas Macy, died early after the settlement. A careful examination of early records may bring to light when the Ancient Burial Ground, as such, was established. It was probably at an early period, set apart by authority for that purpose. In addition to those whom my friend 'S. has named as early officials buried there, I may add the names of Richard Gardner, Sen., who died January 28th, 1688, and of his brother, Captain John Gardner, who died May 6, 1706, and had both been chief magistrates under the New York government. Also of Joseph Gardner, who died in 1701, Peter Folger, 2d, Register of Probate, died 1707, William Gayer, Esq., who died September, 1710, Eleazer Folger Sen., who died in 1716, and Hon. James Coffin, who died in 1720, and probably several other officials of an early date, under the governments of New York or of Massachusetts Bay Colonies. Jonathan Coffin, Esq., and wife, who died in 1773, are said to be the last who were interred in this most ancient burial place of English ancestry.

In an article on the Friends' First Burial Ground, published in the *Inquirer* in 1839, I tried to call attention to that neglected, and by many forgotten spot. Probably it was set apart for a burial ground in 1711, when their first meeting house was built. In it were interred Mary Starbuck, in 1717, and Nathaniel, her husband, in 1719. Nathaniel Barnard, and Nathaniel, Jr., Stephen Hussey, James Gardner, and Sarah, his mother; probably also, James Coffin, Jr., and most of the Friends who died between 1711 and 1732, when Charles Clasby was buried in Friends' present burial ground, he being the first buried therein.

The first person buried in "the Gardner's Burial Ground" was Abigail, wife of Nathaniel Gardner, Sen., and daughter of Hon. James Coffin, Judge of Probate. She died in 1709. Her husband died in England in 1712 or 1713, whilst on a religious visit, he being a minister among Friends. Richard Gardner, Jr., Esq., Judge of Probate, was buried there in 1728. According to "Franklin," they were buried in the southwest part of said ground.

The first person buried in the Unitarian, now "Prospect Hill Cemetery," was John Hazleton Bailey, in 1811.

I have no history of the commencement of interments in the Polpis Burial Ground, nor in the Newtown Cemetery, nor in that for colored people, nor that for the Catholics. Would it not be well, since attention has been called to the subject, for some one at home to search the records, and find out when these several grave-yards were first used. Some persons take an interest in such grave and dry studies as the above.

Boston, Nov. 6th, 1877. W. C. F.

Cemetery Group Acts To Replace \$14,000 In Trust Funds Used For Operating Costs

A new group of managing officers of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association prepared today to make drastic changes in investment of trust funds and to curtail care of cemetery lots with which the organization is charged in an effort to replace some \$14,000 which had been spent by another administration from the principal to meet increasing operating costs over a period of years, which, under the by-laws, should have been met from interest money only.

Announcement of the proposed action came at a meeting of some 100 members of the Association at the Unitarian Church vestry where the financial plight of the organization — for many months a subject of considerable speculation — was given a complete airing.

The session had been adjourned from a previous meeting of several weeks ago for lack of a quorum to elect new officers.

Charles G. Snow who became president of the organization a year ago after the \$14,000 in funds, under a previous administration, had been spent from the trust to meet the higher operating expense, said the organization's financing was in a "serious" state.

The organization's trust fund today, on deposit in the Nantucket Institution For Savings, is \$59,000, he said, and its income totals about \$1700 annually. He said this is insufficient to meet the operating costs for perpetual care of the cemetery lots under the organization's care.

The \$14,000 reported spent from the trust included a \$5000 bequest by the late Miss Emma Hayward. Mr. Snow said, however, the Association since had borrowed \$3000 on a long-term note and added \$500 more from its income to replace all but \$1500 of it.

Actually, Mr. Snow said, the organization spent more than \$14,000 from trust funds since, he said, it had also sold lots — a capital investment — to meet operating expenses.

The organization's by-laws provide that the proceeds of lot sales shall go into the trust fund.

Mr. Snow said the Association will have to limit care of cemetery lots for some time to a period of Memorial Day to mid-July to cut down on expenses.

Individuals normally automatically become members of the organization by purchasing at the going rate the lots, paying for "perpetual" care and requesting membership of the secretary. Perpetual care entitles the member to having the lot he bought trimmed and mowed whenever it was necessary throughout the year.

Had the trust fund been properly invested, Mr. Snow informed the audience, the original \$50,000 fund today would have been worth approximately \$100,000 from which the income would be virtually enough to carry out the provisions of the Association's obligations for perpetual care of lots.

He said the responsible administration had been careless and failed to exercise good managerial policy and added that this was the second time such a condition had resulted in the history of the organization.

Although the matter is left to the discretion of the organization's trustees, Mr. Snow urged that the capital funds be invested by a professional trust company for a more lucrative yield.

He said the present \$59,000 trust draws 3 1/4 percent interest at the bank, yielding an income of about \$1700 annually.

Ormonde Ingall, Nantucket accountant, who has been engaged in an audit of the organization's bookkeeping records as a result of the organization's diversion from adopted fiscal policy, commented to the Town Crier that his study showed the Association's expenses had spiraled and that income had not kept pace.

Mr. Snow said the audit is not complete and is continuing.

He said the Association's management, to cover current expenses of \$3300 annually, had used accruing funds for perpetual care, normally assigned to the trust, along with the \$1700 income, to meet the increased operating expenses.

Mr. Snow was reelected president after nominations had been made from the floor. Other officers elected included Ernest Reed, vice-president; Mrs. Earl S. Ray, secretary; Miss Cora Stevens, treasurer; Lester Harris, trustee for three years and Seddon W. Legg Sr. auditor. Retiring officers of the past year were George M. Lake, vice-president; and Cecil Richrod, secretary-treasurer.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Snow said the town's contribution to the Association for perpetual care of lots amounts to between \$135 and \$140 annually.

Mr. Snow disclosed the maintenance care of lots had been cut in his initial year of administration in 1957 to \$2000 from the annual expenditure of \$3300 to \$3400 before he took over.

The trust fund had been whittled down at the rate of about \$1300 annually for a period of about ten years. The principal trust fund, exclusive of the Hayward one, has been cut \$9000 and he said it would have to be replaced.

The President proposed that the Association spend only 75 percent of its income annually and use the other 25 percent to replace the expended trust funds.

This, in turn, he said, would mean curtailment of the Association's maintenance of cemetery lots which would be cut off after mid-July for the rest of the year.

To raise additional funds, Mrs. Walton H. Adams proposed an assessment of \$1 to \$2 annually on every lot owner. This would bring an annual income of \$1000 more, she said.

Mr. Snow said it was a good suggestion but that it would require a change in the by-laws, requiring a two-thirds plurality in approval by the membership.

On a proposal by Mrs. Charles Amey, the secretary was instructed to request members to sign an application for membership and enclose \$1. Trustees will later decide on a regular annual dues, suggested at \$2, on each member.

Mr. Snow later commented there are approximately 1400 lots under the Association care but that only 1000 are surviving memberships. Thus the new application assessment would bring in \$1000 this year and \$2,000 more annual income if the trustees adopt a policy of \$2 yearly assessment in dues. Mr. Snow said tentative plans, subject to a revision of the by-laws, would allocate 50 percent of the proposed new income and regular income, to make up the expended trust funds.

Mr. Snow said the Association's records list every lot owner but do not show claims of 26 or 27 persons who say they paid for perpetual care of cemetery lots.

When Mrs. Adams said the treasurer's bond has been only \$500 Mr. Snow said the treasurer should be bonded in the full amount of the trust fund, now estimated at \$59,000.

Miss Stevens, the newly-elected treasurer said a treasurer should always be bonded for the amount under his care. She was also assured, as she requested, that the Association's accounts would be audited before she accepted the responsibility for them. In reply to a question of Mr. Snow as to what the cost of the bond would be, Marcus L. Ramsdell said he did not know.

On a motion of Roger Dunham, however, the Association voted to bond the treasurer to the full amount of the trust funds.

In reply to a question raised by Miss Stevens, Edward B. Lewis, a trustee, said the Association still has 200 lots for sale. A 20-foot plot costs \$75 and half that size \$40.

Charles Sayle cited need of additional funds for the perpetual care of lots because of the difference of higher maintenance costs today and those contracted for at the time over the years. He said the perpetual care assessment today is \$250 and that those contracted for years ago ranged from \$100 down.

Cost of a lot's maintenance today is \$15 annually and the assessments made years ago do not derive sufficient income to pay that cost, the Association was told.

Under the will of the late Miss Hayward, income of \$350 from her \$5000 bequest to the Association was specified for the maintenance of cemetery fences.

During a discussion of the proposal to assess members annual dues, Roger Dunham asked how much it cost to maintain the cemetery lots annually. Mr. Snow said \$3300. Mr. Dunham commented that a \$1 yearly assessment, in addition to the regular income of \$1800 annually, would not cover the operating costs. He then advocated the \$1 membership and that the yearly dues assessment be determined later.

Mrs. Roy Gilpatrick decried the insufficiency of income funds for maintenance of general upkeep of cemetery lots and Miss Edna May proposed \$1 assessment, in addition to the \$1 membership fee, for maintenance.

Mr. Sayle proposed memberships of varying dues such as \$5 and \$10 but Mr. Snow said the by-laws would have to be revised to do that.

Perpetual maintenance costs were originally assessed, depending on the size of the lot at \$10, \$75, \$100 and \$150, Mr. Snow said, but today the assessment is \$250. Annual care charges of fifty cents, \$2, \$3 and \$4 were discontinued three years ago, he added.

Mr. Snow agreed with Mrs. Roger Dunham that the Association's by-laws are outdated and should be revised by the trustees.

The Association voted to have Mrs. Adams submit a history of the Association and appeal for funds.

Mr. Snow said the Association currently has \$500 in income on hand since January for maintenance of lots and Mr. Ingall, the auditor, estimated it would accumulate to between \$825 and \$900 after July 1.

May 15, 1958

Cemetery Association Finances Problem at Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association, adjourned from April 22, was held at the Unitarian Church vestry on Tuesday evening.

In opening the meeting President C. Gerald Snow explained to the gathering that the previous meeting had been adjourned because of the very small attendance and of the resulting inability to elect new officers for the current year. He went on to tell briefly of the present financial condition of the Association, describing it as very serious.

The upkeep of Prospect Hill Cemetery is approximately \$3,200 a year, in order to maintain it in proper condition. At present the income which can be used for this purpose is in the neighborhood of \$1,500. Over a period of some six or seven years the amount expended for the maintenance of the cemetery has been in excess of income and a considerable sum of money was withdrawn from perpetual care funds for upkeep and for other purposes. This shortage in accounts was discovered recently when the accounts were audited and amount to approximately \$14,000. Of this amount, \$4,000 was from the Emma Haywood account and this has been partially repaid.

President Snow emphasized the seriousness of the situation and said he and the trustees would welcome any suggestions as to a plan to raise the money to replace that which has been withdrawn from the individual accounts. However, he said the election of officers should be carried out before any further discussion of the financial condition of the Association took place.

Nominations were made from the floor for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, one trustee to serve for three years, and an auditor. It was voted that the secretary pro tem, Mrs. Earl S. Ray, cast one ballot for the floor-nominated officers and the following were elected: President, Charles Gerald Snow; Vice-President, Ernest P. Reed; Secretary, Mrs. Earl S. Ray; Treasurer, Miss Uffa Stevens; Trustee, Lester S. Harris, and Auditor, Seddon W. Legg, Sr.

Following the election, the discussion of the finances was opened by Mr. Snow, who said he and the trustees would answer willingly and as best they could any questions anyone in the audience might have. The unsightly condition of the cemetery at present and what can be done to improve it between now and Memorial Day, with the small amount of money available for labor, brought forth numerous questions. For several years now there has been no such thing as "annual care" and the income from the "perpetual care" accounts has not been sufficient for the mowing and trimming of these lots more than one or two times during the season.

Mr. Edward B. Lewis, one of the trustees, answered questions about the cost of lots and said they cost \$75.00 for a full size eight-grave lot, although there are some smaller ones. He also said that there is plenty of room available in the new part of the cemetery.

In response to a question about perpetual care, Mr. Snow said the minimum amount required to open a perpetual care account is \$250. The list of perpetual care accounts, now in the possession of the trustees, is nearly complete, but there are some, which have evidently been started within the past few years, of which there is no record. One such account was disclosed at the meeting, as the person involved had in her possession the signed contract for the perpetual care deposit.

After considerable discussion it was voted that a notice be sent to each owner of a cemetery lot, which list is complete, stating that an effort is being made to replace the funds in the perpetual care accounts and asking that the slip be filled out and returned to the secretary. This slip will signify that the owner of the lot desires to become an active member of the Association. A donation of \$1 will be requested from each such member when the slip is returned and this money will be used toward replacing the shortage.

It was pointed out that the amount need not be restricted to \$1 and also that there are numerous instances where there is more than one family having an interest in one cemetery lot. Consequently, it is hoped that a substantial amount of money may be turned in.

The matter of assessing members for annual dues was brought up and a discussion was held concerning the various types of membership. This involved reference to the By-laws, which are some 30 years old and slightly out of date. It was voted that the trustees appoint a committee to revise the By-laws and present their revisions and amendments at a special meeting to be held at a future date.

Mrs. Walton H. Adams suggested it might be advantageous at this time for a history of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association to be written and published. President Snow said there were present representatives of three newspapers who would undoubtedly give complete reports of the meeting in their respective papers. The motion was made, seconded, and voted that Mrs. Adams, as the person most qualified for the task, prepare for publication an article giving all pertinent information about the past and present status of the cemetery and the Association and include in it the possibilities for improving the future.

In closing the meeting, Mr. Snow said the cemetery would be made as presentable as possible before Memorial Day, using the money there is now available for the purpose. Many of those at the meeting signified they would do some work at their own lots, thereby helping to make the available money go further toward immediate improvement.

Prospect Hill Cemetery.

This is the weekend when more people visit the cemeteries in the United States — and in Nantucket — than at any other time of the year. Memorial Day with its special significance — paying honor to those who came before us and have now departed this world — is more than just another holiday. It has also come to mean more than a day of paying tribute to the dead.

It is the time of the year when the cemeteries are trimmed up for the summer season, sort of a "housecleaning" and redecorating period. Grass is cut around the graves, plants are set in the ground to bloom throughout the coming months, weeds are pulled, and bright flowers in vases are placed in strategic spots. All this cleaning up is part of Memorial Day's remembrance of those loved ones now gone, and it is something which should continue throughout the year so that a cemetery will have a well-cared-for appearance as does a public park or a private garden.

This year Prospect Hill Cemetery in Nantucket does not present as good an appearance as we would like. The reason for this, as has already been publicized, is that the Association does not have the funds presently available to cover the cost of the tremendous amount of work necessary. As much has been done before the Memorial Day weekend by the Association as money would permit.

However, the cemetery would not look as good as it does had it not been for the public spirit and generosity of Albert Johnsen, Sr., and his men, who have given of their time and efforts toward cleaning up the rubbish, etc., which accumulated during the past months. Many owners of cemetery lots have made special efforts to do work on their own lots, which work has in other years come under the perpetual care funds. The present improved condition of the cemetery is the result of cooperative effort by those people most interested in bringing order out of chaos.

A good start has been made and it is hoped that others, who have the ability and initiative, will join in and help to make Prospect Hill Cemetery once more a place of trim, well-cared-for beauty.

May 31, 1958

May 17, 1958

Cemetery By-Law Changes Discussed

Some 25 members of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association attended a special Summer meeting of that organization held recently at the Unitarian Church to discuss changes in the by-laws and certain problems which have arisen in connection with the handling of cemetery funds and maintenance of lots.

In his report to the members, President Leroy H. True said that "the purpose of this meeting is to review the situation at the Prospect Hill Cemetery while interested Summer people are here and plan for the solution of our many problems. I will, therefore, briefly outline five or six of the more pressing worries and indicate what I hope can be done to improve them."

First item cited by Mr. True was the necessity for certain changes in the by-laws. "Obviously, our present ones are ambiguous and need revision," he said. "These have not been revised since 1914. A committee composed of Richard Everett, Charles Gerald Snow and Robert Clark was appointed for this purpose and will bring in recommendations later this evening."

Subsequently, the members voted approval of changes in eight articles of the by-laws, most important of which were those pertaining to the election of officers and the handling of cemetery funds. As amended, Article 1 of the by-laws now provides that the four officers of the Association also shall serve as members of the board of trustees, together with three trustees at large.

The article provides that the officers, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer be elected annually and serve a term of one year and further provides that the three trustees at large will serve terms of three years each. The article also provides that an auditor be elected annually but stipulates that he shall not be a trustee.

Under Article 5, the members voted to change the construction of the first sentence to read, "The treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Association, shall collect dues and pay bills approved by the President and two other

members of the Board." Also altered in wording were articles relative to deeds to cemetery lots and the date of the annual meeting and such other meetings as the trustees may hold.

Major revision, however, was in Article 12, which was completely rewritten and now reads: "Funds and the Investments of Same—The President shall annually appoint a committee of three persons known to be experienced in the handling of investments, to act for one year as the Investment Committee. They may be reappointed if desired. It shall be their duty to recommend to the Trustees for their decision the investment of all funds as provided below."

"Capital Fund—The money received from the sale of lots shall be invested by the board of trustees in a separate account known as the capital fund and only the income from same shall be used for the preservation of the Cemetery as a whole. The principal of this fund may be used for purchase of additional land if so voted by two thirds of the members present at a meeting duly called for this purpose."

"Fund for Perpetual Care of Lots and Grounds—A separate fund under this title shall be established and all sums of money paid by lot owners or any other person or persons for perpetual care of any lot in said cemetery shall be added to this fund. The principal of same shall be held as a sacred trust and shall never be used or appropriated for any other purpose. The income of this fund shall be used by the trustees for the care, repair, preservation and keeping in order the lots of which they have assumed or guaranteed the care and repair and for the cemetery grounds, but for no other purpose."

"All Funds—All other funds which have been given or which will be given to the Cemetery and the principal of the capital fund and the perpetual care fund shall be invested by the trustees, on recommendation of the investment committee, in savings banks of this Commonwealth, in investments which may be legal for said banks or in securities which in Massachusetts are considered proper investments for fiduciaries."

Referring to the identification of lots and owners, Mr. True, in his report to the members

mented, "We have had reasonably accurate records of the lots, owners and the type of care contracted for, but they needed to be indexed for ready reference and for follow up purposes. Mrs. Edith Anderson has made excellent progress in this time consuming job and now has a cross index file of owners and lot numbers. This had to be done before we could do much about the hundreds of neglected lots."

Mr. True observed, in commenting on the responsibility for care of lots; that "there are many lots for which the person currently responsible for the upkeep is unknown. Mrs. Walton Adams has consented to investigate this situation and trace down the family ties in hopes to bring the ownership and responsibility up to date. This is the most important job and I hope others will help her in order that it may be completed by early Spring."

"There are many other neglected lots for which the persons responsible are known. The trustees must take a firm stand and persuade or force these people to recognize their obligation. Not only do these people owe more respect to the departed members of their family, but also the general appearance of the cemetery is ruined by each neglected lot in the midst of an otherwise well kept group."

Although Mr. True pointed out that Gilbert Birchell has been handling most of the caretaking work for the past two years and "his work has been excellent," he noted that "many problems tend to make the per lot cost higher than it should be." As examples, he cited fences and hedges around individual lots, especially with inadequate openings for large power mowers; lots, for which the Association receives no compensation, in the middle of groups which must be mowed; sunken graves and uneven lots; fallen stones; dead flowers and wreaths left for the caretaker to pick up; baskets and flower pots left in the middle of lots. "The Trustees must take a firmer stand to control some of these abuses," he said.

Mr. True also noted that independent caretakers who handle individual lots in the middle of large groups also create a problem in that they mow at different times, which detracts from the general appearance, and assume no responsibility for the care of the adjacent roadway or area between.

"It is not my wish to deprive them of work, but I feel that we should require certain cooperation from them and possibly negotiate for them to take over the group, paying them for the ones we are responsible for," he remarked.

Mr. True observed that "great progress was made last year in

cleaning up overgrown areas but a very difficult section in the Southeastern part of the cemetery still presents a real challenge. It probably will cost a thousand dollars or more to restore this section but the money must be found. People buried here were once loved and honored citizens of Nantucket and we cannot continue to neglect their final resting place."

Speaking on finances, Mr. True said, "Our income is several hundred dollars short of what is needed each year to properly keep the cemetery looking good. Some of this can be found by increasing the number of people paying for annual and perpetual care. The town should, and probably will, pay the current rate for the care of those lots they are obligated for, instead of the extremely low rate they have been paying for the last several years."

Many people have suggested a general appeal for funds. I personally am not in favor of this because I feel the cemetery is the responsibility of those people who have family lots there, but it is possible that we should consider an appeal to these with ties to Prospect Hill. If this is done the money should be used in cleaning up the neglected area and increasing the Perpetual Care Fund.

"The current rate of \$300 for perpetual care should not be increased because many could not afford to pay more. However, we should encourage larger bequests for this purpose in the wills of

people who could do more."

Mr. True concluded by noting that "The current practice of deeding large and double lots to families who will never use the full capacity must be looked into. I am not prepared to suggest controls or restrictions at this time, but I know the cost of maintaining these large unused areas will constantly increase and at our present rate of selling lots it will not be many years before more land must be added of a new cemetery started."

In her financial report, Mrs. Edith Anderson, treasurer of the Association, listed total receipts of \$7718.07 in the checking account in the Pacific National Bank for the period of May 12 through August 22, less a transfer of \$1700 to the Nantucket Institution for Savings and disbursements totaling \$2846.90, leaving a balance of \$3171.17.

Sept. 2, 1960

Resident Gets Suspended Jail Term, 5 Years Probation In Cemetery Embezzlement Case

Resident Indicted On 36 Counts Of Alleged Embezzling Of Funds

A grand jury at a one-day session of the Superior Court here Monday returned 25 indictments charging Mrs. Doris E. Rablin, 46, a housewife of 19 York Street with embezzlement of \$4000 to \$4200 on 32 counts from the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association which she formerly served as secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Rablin, represented by Attorney C. George Anastos, entered a plea of innocent to all the indictments after her counsel waived reading of the charges.

She was released in bail of \$5000 personal surety set by Judge Paul G. Kirk, after Attorney Anastos informed the court she owns a home valued at \$10,000 with a \$1000 mortgage.

The case was continued for trial at the May session of Superior Court by agreement with State Assistant Attorney-General Joseph T. Doyle, in charge of criminal investigation for the office of Attorney-General Edward McCormack who said the defendant needed the time for preparation of her defense.

The indictments were returned following presentation of evidence to the grand jury by Mr. Doyle, Assistant Attorney-General Robert Tobin; and Marcus L. Ramsdell, one of the Association's three trustees for many years among others. Mr. Ramsdell recently renewed a request to the Attorney-General office's for an investigation into the Association fund.

One which he made two years ago to the attorney-general's office, then held by the late George Fingold, was never investigated.

The investigation got underway more than a month ago and investigators under Assistant Attorney General Richard Gens who interviewed former and present officers of the Association impounded the cemetery fund's financial records.

Mr. Ramsdell had estimated the missing funds at about \$14,000, but Attorney-General Doyle said the six-year statute of limitations prohibited prosecution beyond the year 1954. The \$4,000 to \$4,200 embezzlement is alleged to have taken place between that year and 1957, Mr. Doyle said.

Mrs. Rablin Guilty on Six Counts Jury Recommends Clemency

After deliberating over three and a half hours in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Doris E. Rablin, the Traverse Jury of the Superior Court returned a verdict of guilty on six indictments, which charged the former treasurer of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association with embezzlement of \$1,705 from the Emma Haywood Trust Fund, and they recommended clemency. Findings of not guilty were returned by the jury on 15 larceny indictments.

Judge Charles S. Bolster sentenced Mrs. Rablin to two years at hard labor at the Barnstable House of Correction on one of the embezzlement indictments, which charged her with misuse of \$500 of the trust fund. He then suspended the sentence and put her on probation for five years. The other five embezzlement indictments were ordered filed.

Just before the final arguments were to begin Wednesday morning, Assistant Attorney General Charles Frazier told Judge Bolster that the Commonwealth did not feel they had proved their case on three embezzlement and one larceny indictments and asked permission to nol pros the four indictments. Judge Bolster granted the request. Originally Mrs. Rablin faced trial on a total of 25 indictments and Mr. Frazier's action reduced the number of indictments to 21.

May 6, 1960

Oct. 2, 1959

Friends' Burial Ground Fund Reaches Desired Amount.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

My efforts to bring the amount of subscriptions to the Friends' Burial Ground Fund up to \$1,000, in order to meet the \$500 which was practically assured, have been successful and the amount has been subscribed. I have received several subscriptions while on the island on my annual visit. The result has been exceedingly gratifying to me, for I have been over two years on the work. A gentleman well known to many of you, William H. Swift, Esq., of Pittsfield, very generously offered to make up any deficit not exceeding \$105. I felt, however, that I could reduce that amount a little and I was able to. Doubtless there are many who have intended all along to give something but have postponed it to a more propitious time. While I do not need more, any further sum will gladly be accepted and applied to the Fund, to the further advantage of it.

It may be necessary to bring the matter formally before the town at a town meeting, to make it a matter of record. The desires of the Friends to keep the grounds in general after their own customs must be considered and perhaps a somewhat formal contract drawn to be on record not only with the town but on the records of the Friends meeting. The details will be worked out as rapidly as possible now. Both the Lynn and the Dartmouth meetings are contributory, so that there can be no question as to the authority. It seems wise now that the Friends should have the making of the final arrangements.

State of the Fund:

Amount as per last statement	\$884.60
Henry C. Cottle	2.00
Rev. John D. Whitney	2.00
Alanson S. Barney	5.00
Robert B. Chase	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. David Parker	5.00
William H. Swift	75.00
Nantucket Historical Asso.	25.00
C. L. Greene	2.00
Charles H. Davis	1.00
Dr. E. B. Coleman	5.00
A Friend	.50
L. R. C. and A. G. B.	5.00
Avis N. Murphey	2.00

\$1,016.10

The Dartmouth Meeting will contribute the remaining 500.00

\$1,516.10

There are a few very slight expenses, not exceeding \$10 or \$15, so that our complete success is assured. I heartily thank everyone who has helped out in this matter, whether the amount was large or small, not excepting the publishers of the Inquirer and Mirror. I will report further progress until the money is deposited with the town.

A. Starbuck, Treasurer.

JULY 31, 1915

Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Starbuck.

The Nantucket Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends has passed the following resolution of appreciation to Alexander Starbuck of Waltham, for his successful efforts in raising the fund for the perpetual care of the Friends' Burial Ground in Nantucket. The resolution is as follows:

This meeting hereby desires to express its grateful appreciation of the interest and untiring efforts of Alexander Starbuck in soliciting and obtaining a part of the necessary funds for the perpetual care of Friends' Burying Ground on Nantucket. His generous devotion of time and influence, as well as his concern, that all should be kept as those whose mortal remains rest there would have desired, merits this small token of our gratitude and esteem. We also extend our thanks to all who have contributed towards the successful issue.

The clerk is directed to send Alexander Starbuck a copy of the foregoing, also a copy to the Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror for publication, signed on behalf of the meeting.

Taken from the minutes of Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Lynn, Mass., the 30th of 9th month 1915.

Horace B. Foster, clerk.

The Friends' Burying Ground.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

There is scarcely a descendant of any of the old Nantucket families but has an ancestor buried in the old Friends' Burying Ground. Do they realize that the vast majority of the coming generation neither honors the memories nor respects the virtues of the men and the women who brought renown to Nantucket, whose names were synonymous with all that was the best in mankind, and who made our little island home the wonder of their generation?

The grounds need caring for; who will do it by and by? When we are gone who will be interested? While we can we should raise a fund the interest of which will keep the fence in repair, the grass trimmed, the few stones allowed there properly cared for, and feel assured that nothing that is needed shall be neglected. The money should be put in charge of the town authorities as a trust fund, the income to be used for that purpose forever. Who'll add something to what already has been subscribed? I understand that this or a similar plan meets the approval of the Friends' Meeting.

A. Starbuck.

Feb. 22, 1913

Moses Joy Tells How Nantucket Friend Defied Whole Sect.

By Joseph R. Burgess in the New Bedford Standard-Times.

Shunning every form of worldliness, the Quakers were opposed to the custom of placing monuments or headstones at the graves of those who had departed. And so a visit to the old burial place of the Society of Friends of Nantucket at the upper end of Main street, discloses on first inspection what appears to be just another field. A closer study reveals the fact the grounds are divided into two parts and that the northwest section contains about 40 simple markers while the southeast section has but six and two of those are recent.

More than 5,000 Friends sleep in these grounds, lying side by side in a plot of ground of about an acre. Just why should one side contain markers and the other practically none? A brief history of the Friends of Nantucket explains part of the question.

The Society in Nantucket started with a few Quakers who fled from the mainland to escape persecution. In 1711 the sect became so large it secured a piece of land in the old town at Wannacommet in which to bury its dead and to serve as a site for its meetinghouse. Across from the burial ground they built their meetinghouse, later moved across the sound to Dennisport, where it served as a school house until it burned a short time ago.

There was a division in the ranks of the Friends and in 1833 there were two distinct sects, the Gurneyites, or followers of Joseph John Gurney, and the Wilburites, who still believed with John Wilbur of Hopkinton, R. I., in the old orthodox principles of the original order.

And hence we are told the burial ground was divided into two parts—on one side the Gurneyites and the older Hicksites, somewhat liberal in their views, buried their dead and allowed markers on their graves. On the other side the Wilburites, who frowned on the markers. This sect, by the way, became the stronger in Nantucket.

This offers no explanation as to the few markers on the Wilburite section and I was unable to find the solution until I had an occasion to take Moses Joy, a native Nantucketer and a Friend, out to Madaket to see the new Massasoit Bridge.

As we passed the Burial Grounds, Mr. Joy asked me to pull up beside the fence. Pointing to the four markers he said: "Do you see those stones? Well, I'll tell you why, with the exception of those two later ones, they are the only stones on this side of the grounds. They mark the graves of four of my relatives and my father put them there in order that my blind uncle could go along and tap with his cane and locate where his father and mother were buried.

"The Friends were much against it and two of the High Seat Quakers came to father and said, 'Friend Moses, we have had a meeting of the

Society and thee will have to remove the stones.'

"Father didn't say anything. A week later the same two came to him again saying, 'Friend Moses, we have had another meeting of the Friends and those stones must be removed. If thee doesn't remove them they will be thrown into the street.'

"Father weighed 225 pounds and stood six-feet-two in his stocking feet. He was a cooper and his hands were as big as two of mine. Quietly and with dignity he replied, 'If thee touches a stone, thee will be sorry. Go back and tell thee Friends that the first one that throws out a stone will be thrown after it.'

"And there they are today in the Joy lot of the cemetery and they remain there as a marker of the courage and persistence of my father who was able to hold out against the whole Society."

We left the old burial ground and proceeded toward Madaket. On our right stood the first land mark that is seen as the steamer nears Nantucket—the stand pipe of the Wannacommet Water Company, a monument to the efforts against odds of Moses Joy, Jr., a true son of his father.

Quaker Cemetery Funds Studied At Selectmen's Meeting.

In accordance with a request made by the Board of Selectmen, at their previous meeting, Town Counsel Roy E. Sanguinetti presented an opinion regarding the expenditure of funds held by the Town for the maintenance of the Quaker Cemetery to the Board at their Wednesday evening meeting.

The fence surrounding the cemetery being in need of repair, the Selectmen had determined from Mr. W. Ripley Nelson of the Nantucket Historical Association that the property had been placed in the care of the Town in 1915, and that a perpetual care fund amounting to \$1,533 was also turned over to the Town at that time.

In his letter, Mr. Sanguinetti informed the Board that, according to the Statutes governing such cases, only the interest of such a fund may be spent, the law specifically stating that no part of the principal may be expended. Chairman Hardy said the interest would certainly be sufficient to take care of the present repairs, but Selectman Burgess and other members of the Board reminded him that sums had been spent in 1946 and 1947.

It was found that portions of the principal were spent in those years: \$714.90 in 1946 and \$238 in 1947, and, according to the Town Counsel's letter, evidently the expenditures were made illegally, as they came from the principal of the fund.

No action was taken regarding the eight-year-old illegal spending, the Selectmen voting to find out the amount of interest from the fund available for repairs at the present time, and then go ahead with the work.

Dec. 4, 1955

Has Nantucket a Lost "Friends' Burying Ground?"

A century ago there lived on Nantucket an elderly gentleman who was deeply interested in island history and genealogy. During the course of his research he wrote a short piece for *The Inquirer* which brought out the fact that there was an ancient burial ground on the hill east of Maxcey's Pond in which were interred the original settlers of the island.

The old gentleman placed subscription papers in all the reading rooms, whereby the townspeople could subscribe to a fund to purchase and enclose the venerated spot suitably. The "Proprietors" were impressed by the discovery and when the antiquarian proved to them that the spot was the first burying ground the august body set it aside, so that it could not be appropriated for individual purposes or desecrated by the plough.

More than a half century later a movement was started to raise a monument over the place. Subscriptions were slow, but through the efforts of a descendant of the island settlers the stone which now stands over the spot was placed in position. Since that day it has been known as "Forefathers' Burying Ground."

Recently, another historically minded islander has come across evidence which points to another burial ground southeast of the first. This ground was used by the first group of Friends for their meeting house, and near it were interred the members of that original Nantucket Society.

As the Nantucket Friends' Society was organized in 1704, and the Yearly Meeting (probably the Quarterly) in 1708, according to Macy's History, it is logical to assume that burial here began soon after 1704.

It was not until 1731 that the Main street burying grounds was used—now known as the Quaker Burying Ground—and the big meeting house which formerly stood there, was no doubt erected shortly before this time.

But there were, of course, burials between 1704 and 1731. As a matter of Anglo-Saxon ritual and for the sake of historical record, the locality should be found and the spot set aside as another memorial to the progenitors of the Nantucketers who made the island world-famous and whose worthy descendants are now residing in almost every state in the Union.

The research promises to be interesting and instructive.

The Friends' Burial Ground and the "Fund."

Editor of *The Inquirer and Mirror*:

I saw by my *Inquirer and Mirror* of last Saturday that the town voted to accept the trust providing for perpetual care of the Friends' Burial Ground. As that is in accord with the modern practice, as well as a fitting token of respect to the memory of our ancestors, I was not surprised, though I was very much gratified. It relieves my mind of a care that has been on it for nearly three years, my first deposit to the credit of the "fund" in our local savings bank bearing date of February 26, 1913. It has been a long pull, but as it was also "a strong pull and a pull all together", we reached the goal. I have this day sent to William T. Oliver, of Lynn, who has charge of the affairs of the Nantucket Monthly Meeting, the saving bank's check for \$1025.33, payable to the order of the treasurer of the town of Nantucket. He has in hand \$33.50 from the Lynn Meeting and \$500.00 from the Dartmouth Meeting, so that we are able to turn over to the town \$1558.83, a little in excess of the amount named at town meeting.

I can now render my final report and close up the account. As I recall, my last published statement showed a receipt of \$1016.10. There was an error of 10 cents in figuring interest, so that the corrected figures should be:

Since then I have received from:	
William P. Hubbard	5.00
Mrs. J. H. Hutoff	1.00
Mrs. C. F. Austin	15.00
Mrs. R. F. Lutz	15.00
Interest on deposits additional	10.83
Total	\$1,062.83

In the above I included \$33.50 from the Lynn Meeting, which was promised but not received and which goes direct to the town treasurer

Making my net receipts \$1029.33 I have drawn \$4.00 for postage—not a very extravagant sum where I contributed, in addition to my personal subscription, printing and stationery—

And I have forwarded check drawn to the order of the treasurer of the town of Nantucket for

The Lynn Meeting contributes	33.50
The Dartmouth Meeting contributes	500.00

Making the sum total \$1,558.83. An excess of \$25.33 over the amount agreed with the town.

I very, very gladly see the completion of this matter and rejoice exceedingly that through the kindness and liberality of friends, including in no small degree the publishers of *The Inquirer and Mirror*, the security of the Friends' Burial Ground from all harm or neglect is assured.

For myself I thank all who have aided.

Alexander Starbuck,
Treasurer.
Waltham, Dec. 9th.

Friends' Burial Ground Fund.

Will Everyone of Your Readers Read This?

Editor of *The Inquirer and Mirror*:

I must admit I am greatly disappointed at the very slow progress we are making towards acquiring a fund for the perpetual care of the Friends' Burial Ground. Perhaps a mistake has been made in the choice of a treasurer—if so, I am ready at any time to give way to some one who will do better. It is not encouraging, however, to put out time and labor and money and accomplish no better results. And, really, is it creditable that the descendants of 5000 men and women who lie buried there seem to be unable or unwilling to contribute the sum of \$1500 that the God's Acre in which they lie may be forever preserved from desecration?

Not long ago, through the generosity of friends, the fence was rebuilt there, but just prior to that rebuilding swine were in the lot and rooting in the ground. Is that the way, fellow Nantucketers, we want the remains of our ancestors treated? And yet when the present fence rots away or needs repairs, where will the funds come from to replace or repair it? It will not answer always to trust to luck to have it taken care of. Each succeeding generation becomes more indifferent to it.

Are there not among all your readers, Mr. Editor, 300 who will give \$5.00 each, rather than have the place where their ancestors lie buried made a pasture ground for cattle? Are there not on the island and abroad, among all who read *The Inquirer and Mirror* each week, 1500 who will contribute \$1.00 each to so sacred a cause? In spite of the seeming lack of interest I cannot believe such a state exists.

One lady writing to me from Washington, D. C., encloses a check for \$10.00 and says she is of Nantucket extraction but not of Nantucket birth. She says: "I am, therefore, interested in what you are trying to do, and surprised that it has not met with a more enthusiastic response." And, Mr. Editor, so am I. But let's close up the ranks again and march forward.

Will not my fellow Nantucketers, by descent as well as by birth, take this matter to heart and respond as each feels able? Give what you can afford—an occasion like this comes but once in a life-time. If you cannot afford \$10.00, give \$5.00; if \$5.00 is beyond your means (and it is beyond the means of many) give \$3.00 or \$2.00, or \$1.00; but do give.

The present condition of the Fund is:

Amount at last report	\$327.00
In memory of Jemima Austin	2.00
Miss Emily B. Mitchell	5.00
Mrs. Elizabeth F. Goodsell	5.00
Maria L. Macy	1.00

Total to Sept. 24 \$340.00

A little more than 20 per cent. of what we need.

A. Starbuck,
Treasurer.
Waltham, Mass.

Burial Ground Sign Repainting Urged

A letter to the Board of Selectmen recently from a Swarthmore Quaker and a Nantucket Summer resident requested the town repaint the sign marking the Friends Burying Ground.

J. Passmore Elkinton expressed his appreciation for the recent mowing of the graveyard, which is done yearly as a town project.

Mr. Elkinton also requested that the headstone of Miss Huldah Bonewell, a Friend buried in 1905, be straightened.

Selectmen indicated they were concerned in maintaining the historic cemetery, but the problem was a shortage of funds to paint the sign. Mr. Elkinton offered \$10 toward the project if it could be accomplished by August 1.

Dec. 18, 1915

Dr. Winslow's Heart Buried Here Seventy Years Ago.

Seventy years ago a man's heart was buried on Nantucket island. Next Monday the grand-daughter of this man is coming to this island with a party which will include Edward Rowe Snow, the man who located the heart, and a proper ceremony due observance will be made of this unusual situation.

Although the facts are not as complete about the life of this mysterious character whose will decreed that his heart be cut out and shipped across the country to his beloved Nantucket, enough has been discovered already to place this practically unknown atomic expert in every textbook of the nation.

Dr. Winslow was born on Nantucket in 1811, and early showed evidences that he would be a great man. Leaving the island to attend medical school, he graduated with honors and went out West, visiting California, Peru, Honolulu, China and the South Seas. It is said that during an outbreak in the island of Tahiti he saved an entire settlement by his quick action and superior knowledge.

Returning to this country he experimented with molecular theory, and his book, printed in 1853, on cosmography, is said to have induced Michael Faraday to change his entire views on the subject. The death of Dr. Winslow's wife, in 1874, is said to have changed his plans for further experimentation on what might have been the world's first atomic bomb, and his health failed rapidly after 1876, when the only known picture of him was made at Philadelphia.

The next year this scientist traveled to Salt Lake City, but grew worse in July, passing away July 8, 1877. When his will was opened in the presence of his two daughters and three sons, it was found to be perhaps the strangest ever written in Utah. Dr. Winslow ordered that:

"If in the course of 8 and 40 hours it be proved that I am dead, my heart may be removed from my body by some competent anatomist and placed in a strong glass vessel having a ground glass stopper, accurately fitted, and the vessel be filled for the purpose of embalming my heart. I order this vessel with its contents thus prepared and when cold placed in a box saturated with coal tar, sent across the country to Nantucket, and buried in the grave and over the remains of my dear and venerated mother in the South or New Town burying grounds on the island where I was born. Thus may this sacred spot be known where I wish my heart to rest forever. I order that my body be burned and placed in a strong glass vessel and sent to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass., and placed upon the coffin which contains the precious remains of my dear, great and venerated wife."

Although the children of Dr. Winslow tried to have the will changed, it was found to be in order and the directions were faithfully carried out. Something went wrong, however, in the placing of the tombstone, for the tomb of Dr. Winslow, according to the director of the Mount Auburn Cemetery, indicates that the doctor was properly buried in a normal fashion at Mount Auburn in Cambridge, which of course, actually did not happen. No stone was ever placed over the heart of Dr. Winslow at Nantucket Island, but that omission will soon be remedied.

A Peculiar Will.

The law firm of Crapo, Clifford & Clifford has become interested in the estate of the late Dr. Charles F. Winslow, who died in Salt Lake City 18 years ago. He left a will which was a remarkable document. To each of his children he bequeathed \$10, to be spent for something to be kept as a sacred remembrance of him. Two unmarried daughters received the income of his estate, which was estimated at \$3,000 annually, and was to be equally divided. A singular provision of his will was that his heart was to be chemically prepared and sent to Nantucket to be buried in the grave with his mother. It is believed by the daughters that the executors have not accounted for certain valuable mining property.—*N. B. Standard.*

March 9, 1895

Says Edward Rowe Snow: "Even as you read these lines, across on the mainland from Nantucket, a stonemason is working day and night to finish in time for the services a marble memorial to the memory of this noted physician and atomic expert. The message on the stone will be brief and to the point: 'The Heart of Dr. Charles Winslow Lies Buried Here'."

Relatives and friends from everywhere in the United States will gather on the island for this memorial service. Among the historians will be Dr. Will Gardner, prominent Nantucket author. Perhaps the speaker whose words will be listened to with the greatest of eagerness will be Mrs. J. C. Oehler, of Dallas, Tex., granddaughter of Dr. Winslow. For the first time anywhere she will reveal why Dr. Charles F. Winslow's cremated remains were sent to Mount Auburn while the heart of this eminent scientist was cut from his body to be buried on the far-away island of Nantucket.

There are not many residents in Nantucket today who carry the name Winslow, but there are a number who can claim to be members of the Winslow family, either by descent or marriage. Here are some of them.

William H. Winslow and his daughter, Miss Helen Winslow.
Mrs. Bessie (Winslow) Cartwright.
Miss Mabel Winslow.
Mrs. Addison T. Winslow.
Miss Maude Winslow.
Mrs. Emily (Winslow) Bunker.
Mrs. Isabel (Winslow) Riddell.

July 12, 1947

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Dr. C. F. Winslow,

(Formerly Physician of the U. S. Marine Hospital at Lahaina, S. I.)

Has resumed the practice of his profession at
No. 29 Boylston St., BOSTON.

Besides consultations in general practice Dr. Winslow will give special attention to Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Diseases from the excessive use of Mercury, and chronic diseases of tropical climates, with the treatment of which his residence and practice have made him familiar.

Dr. Winslow also offers his services to his friends in neighboring cities and towns. 3w

Tablet Dedicated Over Heart of Dr. Charles F. Winslow.

One of the most unusual ceremonies to take place on Nantucket in a number of years occurred at the Newtown (South) Cemetery on Monday afternoon.

Edward Rowe Snow, noted author of books on New England subjects, together with a group of members of the Massachusetts Historical League, came to Nantucket for the memorial services over the spot where the heart of Charles Frederick Winslow, M. D., is buried in the grave of his father and mother.

A tablet was placed and dedicated over the grave of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Winslow, where the heart of Dr. Winslow was interred seventy years ago.

Present were members of the Winslow family name from Nantucket, Boston, Winthrop, Ipswich, Brookline, Cambridge, and from Philadelphia and Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Charles F. Winslow was born in Nantucket in 1811, and sailed the seven seas on scientific expeditions. He died suddenly in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, in 1877, and his will stipulated that his ashes be placed beside the body of his wife, the former Lydia Coffin Jones, of Nantucket, in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, and that his heart be returned to Nantucket and be buried without ceremony, at midnight, in the grave of his parents. This was done, and the interment of the heart was carried out by Capt. Rule and Daniel Russell.

Mr. Snow, who conducted the memorial services at the cemetery, read a telegram of greeting from Arthur Castle Winslow, only living grandson of Dr. Winslow, now residing in San Francisco. Mr. Winslow was for many years in charge of Dr. Winslow's property acquired in the 1850's, when he and other islanders shipped lumber for the '49ers of the Gold Rush days.

Mrs. James C. Oehler, great-granddaughter of Dr. Winslow, who came all the way from Texas for the occasion, gave an outline of Dr. Winslow's amazing career from the time that he was educated at Harvard by the whaling interests to the time when he left the curious will which has attracted nationwide attention at least twice since his death.

While Dr. Winslow had many interests besides medicine, notably politics, foreign trade and the temperance cause, his high consuming passion was scientific research in connection with volcanoes and earthquakes. After traveling to Mexico and the islands of the South Pacific, collecting scientific data, he published his findings in several books.

In 1858 he wrote to Michael Faraday, the great English scientist:

"Our mental prisms may be clear enough one of these days to dissolve the great secret of nature now hidden in the action and reaction of matter and force. At any rate it is by the study of *Atoms* alone that progress can be made."

It is noteworthy that Faraday, whose important theories had not yet been accepted, encouraged the obscure Nantucket physician, by writing:

"I doubt whether any scientists are as yet favorable to such views as ours. If the views be truth it will require time for them to make their view. Still they are announced and I am persuaded will progress, though probably not much in the present generation."

Dr. Will Gardner, following the presentation of the marker by the League's President, Francis Haskell, dedicated it and led the group in prayer. Dr. Gardner is the noted historian of Nantucket and author of the recent historical study, "Three Bricks and Three Brothers." Closing the service, Mrs. Alice Rowe Snow, who rounded the Horn twice in a sailing vessel, played two familiar hymns on the zither.

The inscription on the tablet reads: "The heart of Dr. Charles F. Winslow lies buried here."

Attending the services, in addition to League members, and interested summer visitors to Nantucket, were Winslow descendants of Benjamin Winslow, father of Dr. Winslow. Of the direct descendants of the physician, four attended: Robert Shippen Irving, and his son Robert W. Irving, and daughter Kathleen Winslow Irving, and Mrs. Oehler.

Among the Nantucket Winslows on hand were: Mrs. Isabel (Winslow) Riddell, Miss Mabel Winslow, Miss Maud Winslow, Mrs. Bessie (Winslow) Cartwright, Mrs. Addison T. Winslow, Miss Helen Winslow.

Contributors to the tablet or attending the services were: Louise Bancroft, Alice Snow, Adelina Jones, Elizabeth Fleming, Arthur Noyes, C. A. Hall, Josephine Holt, Mrs. J. C. Oehler, Josephine Hope, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Irving, Robert W. Irving, Connie Leonidas, Daphne Karos, Kathleen Winslow Irving, John Light, Rose Fitch, Ray Lanham, Alice MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Corey, Catherine M. MacDonald, S. A. Clark, A. E. Pratt, Margaret Simpson, Isabella Fleming, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rowe Snow, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Hills, Alicia Hills, Carroll Hills, Francis F. Haskell, Ashford V. Haskins, Arthur C. Winslow, Corisande Winslow, Catherine Griffin.

July 19, 1947

MYSTERIES and ADVENTURES

along the Atlantic Coast

BY EDWARD ROWE SNOW

Stories from the current Best-Seller of the same name.
Published, Dodd, Mead & Co. Copyright, 1948, Edward Rowe Snow

THE NANTUCKET HEART

The following story is selected from that section of Mr. Snow's book entitled "Incredible Stories."

AFTERNOON OFF

One stormy afternoon in the fall of 1934 when my duties included coaching football at Winthrop High School, the rain poured down so hard that any attempt at practice was impossible. With an afternoon unexpectedly free, I started for Boston on an unplanned expedition browsing through Boston's second-hand bookstores.

I sloshed through the deluge toward Williams' Bookstore. Arriving at the shop, I made my way to a special niche in a small gallery at the back of the building and lost myself to the world. Books on Cape Cod, Maine and New Hampshire all had their attractions, but what a really interested me that day was a book on the island of Nantucket.

I don't know why—nothing but Nantucket would satisfy me. Eventually I pulled down a dilapidated paper-covered volume on the subject. The book was a small one, and it was not long before I found the section on cemeteries. There I first read the sentence which stayed in my memory for so many years:

"At the south lies buried the heart of Dr. Winslow, whose body was cremated."

The Book Gone

I have never forgotten either the words or the page, 61, on which I found them. The book was originally priced at 50 cents and I had high hopes of walking out of the store with the volume, but Mr. Williams had other ideas as to its value. They were entirely out of range with the sum in my pocketbook.

Unfortunately, in my disappointment at not being able to buy the book, I did no more than glance at the title—"Island of Nantucket." The author's name, for some reason, was nowhere on the yellow paper cover.

A month later, after the colors of Winthrop High School had been carried to victory against her arch enemy, Revere High School, and before the indoor track season began, I slipped off to Boston again. This time I had a more substantial sum in my pocket.

"I know what you are looking for," said Mr. Williams, "and you're wasting your time. It's been gone for three weeks." This was quite a blow—I had wanted that book!

The following year I went to Nantucket and searched the South Cemetery for a monument which might indicate the burying place of the heart of my mysterious Dr. Winslow. But all I could find was the definite conviction of every Nantucketter I met that the story was my own invention. The very idea that such a thing might happen at Nantucket was considered preposterous. I returned home the next day, remembering the words I had read, but unable to find the book in which I had read them.

Hospital Pastime

A year after Pearl Harbor I woke one morning in a North Africa hospital, after a brief career in the Eighth Air Force and the 12th Bomber Command of the United States army air force. When told that I would have to resign myself to several months of inactivity, I decided to make the best of it. First I took a large campaign map, turned it over, and started to draw in the streets and houses of my home town. Then I listed the various people whom I had known. But a week later even this strange pastime bored me, and a new game suggested itself.

Why not, I thought, make a list of the various stories I had heard—those which had been almost too incredible to believe, during my days of research back in the United States? I thought of the Oak Island treasure, the strange ghost with the missing finger at Sable Island, the loss of the crews from both the Mary Celeste and the Carroll Deering, the phantom ship of New London, and, finally, the heart of Dr. Winslow at Nantucket.

As the days passed, the list became quite lengthy, with the locations of the stories reaching from Canada to Florida and out to Bermuda. Some were more mysterious than others, of course, but each had its own particular reason for being told.

A Favorite

As I compiled the list, those patients who were well enough to walk came over to my cot and asked me to tell them the stories. We passed many a lonely night in that fashion. I was surprised to find that the favorite story seemed to be that of the mysterious Dr. Winslow, whose heart was buried at Nantucket. As there was no conclusion to the story at that time, all the men tried to solve the mystery of why the Winslow heart was buried there. The man who came the closest to the real explanation was Dr. W. Kane Miller, from Chambersburg, Pa. As we had no way of deciding then which story was nearest the truth, I promised them that if I should ever have the complete solution, I would include it in one of my books.

Back in the United States the following year, I again made a pilgrimage to Nantucket, but I soon discovered that my wartime training was of no avail in discovering more facts about the Winslow heart. Searching the graveyards, I found nothing of additional value, and my visit to the Nantucket Athenaeum, where the library is located, was not a social success when it was learned that I was after information about Dr. Winslow and his heart.

Everything Written

In 1946 I gave two lectures at Nantucket, and was the guest of Dr. Will Gardner, who had just published his book, "Three Bricks and Three Brothers." After my first lecture, my wife and I were sitting in front of the fireplace in Dr. Gardner's study, with the doctor and Mrs. Gardner. We were all watching the blazing logs and listening to the pouring rain outside. The doctor rose to turn one of the logs, and I could see that he had something on his mind.

"Ed," he began, "I do wish you'd let me know just how much truth there is to the story you've been telling about Dr. Winslow's heart. I hope you're not making it up, and I don't think you would. Tell me how it all began." So for the next half-hour, as the rain poured down outside and the logs crackled in the fireplace inside, I told how it started and what I had been doing about it. When I finished he sat back and glanced across at me.

"Well," he said, "one thing I can promise you is that before we go to bed tonight you probably will see that page again. Right behind your chair on those bookshelves you'll find almost every book on Nantucket that has been written."

The Find

Finally, after several false leads, I held in my hand the volume which was the same as the one I had examined years before in Boston. The book was written by Edward K. Godfrey, and the title was "Island of Nantucket: What It Was, and What It Is." We had been misled by the fact that Dr. Gardner's book had been bound in cloth, whereas the book I had seen originally had been a yellow paper-covered edition. But now that we had really found the book, I turned feverishly to Page 61. Again I read that "At the South lies buried the heart of Dr. Winslow, whose body was cremated." We both felt strangely elated over this vindication of my interest.

The next morning we awoke bright and early, for Dr. Gardner had promised to take me over to the South Cemetery where he believed the Winslow plot was located. Outside, the rain still poured down. It seemed that the entire story was connected with rain. My first journey to Boston had been possible only because of the rain. The discovery of the volume in Dr. Gardner's library had been made while the rain was pouring down outside, and in North Africa it rained most of the time. It poured rain during the trip to the cemetery, as well.

Winslow Plot

Reaching the graveyard, Dr. Gardner indicated the general direction of the Winslow plot and loaned me his umbrella. He preferred to watch my progress in the downpour from the car. I started off alone across the lots and finally reached the general vicinity he had indicated. After inspecting 30 or 40 gravestones, I found the one for which I had been searching. It was a single stone on which were the names of two people, Benjamin Winslow and his wife, Phebe. But there was no indication any other person was buried in that particular plot. Carefully noting the dates on the stone, I returned to the car where Dr. Gardner was waiting.

We sought information from the caretaker of the cemetery and the local undertaker, but neither of them could help us. Our final stop that day was at the Nantucket Genealogical Society, where Mrs. Addison T. Winslow was working on the society's records. I told my story, and Mrs. Winslow promised to look through the files for a mention of Dr. Winslow. We returned to Dr. Gardner's home, hoping that we would hear from Mrs. Winslow that same afternoon.

Son of Benjamin

The telephone rang shortly before 3 o'clock and it was Mrs. Winslow suggesting that we come right over. Ten minutes later we climbed the long flight of stairs leading to the Genealogical Society office.

"I've discovered a mention of Dr. Charles F. Winslow," she told us, "and the item was written in 1895. It says that 18 years before, he died at Salt Lake City. That would make it some time in 1877. It says here that he was the son of Benjamin Winslow and husband of Lydia Jones Winslow."

This was my first real clue, and I made the most of it. I hurried to the Nantucket Athenaeum and asked for the local paper for the year 1877. Later that night I found what I wanted in the July issue. It was a statement that Dr. Charles F. Winslow had died on July 8, 1877, in Salt Lake City.

From then on my task was comparatively easy. I discovered item after item and fact after fact. Within two days I had uncovered almost the complete story. I found out that Dr. Charles F. Winslow was born June 30, 1811, the son of Phebe Horrox Winslow and Benjamin Winslow. A very unusual child, he easily outdistanced the other pupils in school. Learning all that he could about medicine at an early age, he left the island to study at Harvard and later at Paris.

He became not only a doctor, but a lawyer and a student of astronomy and the nature of the universe. In 1853, when he was 42, he published a scholarly book about the world and the universe, but I seriously doubt if more than a few readers have ever heard of the volume. The title was "Cosmography or Philosophical Views of the Universe." Dr. Winslow wrote other books, but "Cosmography" was the book in which he expounded his theories of atomic reactions, theories which indicated he was investigating the possibilities which later led to the development of the atomic bomb. In this field he exchanged correspondence with the great Michael Faraday.

Strange Will

Dr. Winslow traveled extensively for the State Department throughout California, Peru, the Society and Hawaiian Islands and China. He went to California at the time of the Gold Rush. He visited Europe, where he astounded the scientists by his advanced knowledge of the universe and the world in general.

When his wife died, in 1874, Winslow moved to Salt Lake City, where he practiced law extensively. Shortly afterwards he wrote his will, and it is possibly one of the strangest documents on record:

I request, order and command that if in the course of eight and 40 hours it be positively and clearly proved that I am dead, my heart shall be removed from my body by some competent anatomist and placed immediately in a strong glass vessel having a ground glass stopper accurately fitted to same, and that this vessel be immediately filled for the purpose of embalming my heart, with a saturated solution, in hot water, of muriate of ammonia and sal ammonia, each of these salts being added to the boiling water until it will dissolve no more. Then alcohol may be added and the vessel filled therewith. The vessel must be stopped and sealed and the stopper securely covered with wet parchment and tied. I order this vessel put in a thick oak plank box, made of the size just to receive it, and the box saturated with coal tar; this I wish enclosed in a plain pine case and buried in the grave and over the remains of my dear and venerated mother in the South of

over

Newtown burying ground, in the island of Nantucket, where I was born.

My dear and venerated father lies by my mother's side, and a single stone records the final resting place. Thus may this sacred spot be known where I wish my heart to rest after my heart has been embalmed as above directed.

I order that my body be burned and placed in the same grave at Mount Auburn in Cambridge which contains the precious remains of my great, dear and venerated wife. . . .

(Signed)

CHARLES F. WINSLOW.

Will Executed

On the death of Dr. Winslow on July 8, 1877, his will was read in the presence of his family. His children objected at once to his strange request, but the will was found legal and binding. After the heart was cut from his body, it was preserved as directed in the glass vessel, while Dr. Winslow's remains were cremated—the first or second cremation in the West.

The heart, securely packaged, left Salt Lake City on Aug. 14, 1877, and arrived in Nantucket some time later, where it was buried in the cemetery over the remains of Dr. Winslow's mother. The ashes were sent to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, as directed in the will.

In spite of all this material evidence that the heart of Dr. Winslow was sent to Nantucket Island, there were still many who doubted that the heart actually reached Nantucket. Of course, there was only one method of finding out if it was in the cemetery plot. So I went down to the caretaker's home to talk it over with him.

"Well, if you can get permission from the relatives I can probe down through the ground and find the box—if it's there." Even the caretaker was skeptical, it seemed. The next morning he went over to the cemetery, where the caretaker took out several long, thin, steel rods and forced them down into the soft earth. At the end of an hour he had located a small box, roughly 13 inches long and a foot across.

"Here it is," he told me. "What next?"

I asked him to mark the place and we would decide on our next move.

Permission

I decided to settle for all time whether or not Dr. Winslow's heart actually was in the plot. Permission to open the box was finally granted and the heart was found inside, intact. For the purposes of permanent record, a photograph was taken, after which the heart was replaced and the box reburied.

A week later one of my friends remarked that in a few years the same controversy might begin all over again. We decided to start a fund for a stone marker indicating that Dr. Winslow's heart was indeed buried there. I wrote to Mrs. Helen Irving Oehler of Dallas, Tex., great-granddaughter of the man whose heart is buried at Nantucket, and received word that not only was she intensely interested in our plans to place a marker, but that she would be pleased to cross the continent and be present at Nantucket Island for the ceremony when we dedicated the tablet.

With Mother and Wife

The money was collected and the marker purchased and inscribed with the following legend: THE HEART OF DR. CHARLES F. WINSLOW LIES BURIED HERE. On Monday, July 14, 1947, in the presence of relatives and friends of the Winslows, the marker was set in the ground on the Winslow burial plot, and Mrs. Oehler gave a beautiful tribute to the memory of her great-grandfather.

In her talk, Mrs. Oehler explained the reason for Dr. Winslow's strange request to have the heart cut from his body. All through the years he had remembered his boyhood on Nantucket, the far-away island. How could he satisfy his desire to be with both his mother at Nantucket and his wife at Mount Auburn? The solution was a simple one—he would have his heart sent to Nantucket and his ashes to Mount Auburn.

Dr. Winslow's Heart.

The "Observant Citizen" in the Boston Post of Monday last, included the following in his column:

Historian Edward Rowe Snow tells me that the final mystery in the famous Nantucket heart story has been solved with the admission by one anonymous Nantucket resident that he buried the heart of Dr. Charles F. Winslow in the old South Cemetery at midnight one autumn week in 1878.

Dr. Winslow had died in Salt Lake City and had sent his heart across the country to be buried at his native Nantucket. Almost every resident of Nantucket had denied the story, but the heart was dug up this summer and found intact, and with the admission by the Nantucket resident that he buried the heart the case has been marked closed.

Dr. Winslow, who loved both his wife, buried at Mt. Auburn, and his mother, buried at Nantucket, had his ashes placed at Mt. Auburn, where his wife rests, after his heart had been cut from his body and sent to Nantucket to be buried in his mother's grave.

OBITUARY.—The telegram brings us the news of the decease at Salt Lake City, of Charles F. Winslow, M. D., formerly of this town. Dr. Winslow will be generally remembered and honored here as holding a high place among the many Nantucket boys who have made their mark in the world of science and letters. He was a son of Benjamin Winslow, senior, being the youngest of the family, and at an early age studied for the medical profession, visiting France and other European countries to complete his professional education. He opened an office here in his native town, and practiced a few years, but soon sought a new field by removing to the Sandwich Islands, where he was very successful, acquiring a lucrative practice, and being for some time hospital physician at Honolulu. He was active among the early Californians, and at a later period, spent some time in Peru, also having at various times, traveled extensively in Europe. Though a Nantucketer by birth, he was in character and habits, something of a cosmopolite, but he always retained an affection for his birthplace, and made us a flying visit as lately as last fall, when he appeared to be in vigorous health. He has for several years past resided chiefly at Salt Lake city. Dr. Winslow's general reputation was very high in the medical and scientific world. He is also known in the world of letters by his scientific contributions, was noted for skill in his profession, and he has made his mark high wherever he has for the time being been located. His wife, who was a daughter of the late Daniel Jones, Esq., died some three years since, but two sons and three daughters, all grown to maturity, survive him.

Dr. Winslow's Will.

The law firm of Crapo, Clifford & Clifford has become interested in the estate of the late Dr. Charles F. Winslow, who died in Salt Lake City 18 years ago. He left a will which was a remarkable document. To each of his children he bequeathed \$10, to be spent for something to be kept as a sacred remembrance of him. Two unmarried daughters receive the income of his estate, which was estimated at \$3,000 annually, and was to be equally divided. A singular provision of his will was that his heart was to be chemically prepared and sent to Nantucket to be buried in the grave with his mother. It is believed by the daughters that the executors have not accounted for certain valuable mining property.—N. B. Stenbard.

To Be Featured



EDWARD ROWE SNOW

A lecture on "Strange Tales of the Atlantic Coast" will be presented by Mr. Snow, well-known author and radio personality, to highlight the entertainment program at the annual Guest Night observance planned by Old Colony Union Women's Club of Bourne for 8 p.m. tomorrow in the Memorial Community Building, Buzzards Bay. The talk will be illustrated by slides and motion pictures in color.

The remains of Dr. Winslow, lately cremated at Salt Lake city, weighing 3 pounds 8½ ounces, have been placed in a half gallon glass vessel, with a ground stopper, and started for Massachusetts, together with the heart, which has been embalmed.

STRANGE REQUEST OF A NANTUCKET PHYSICIAN.—Dr. C. F. Winslow, whose death we chronicled last week as occurring at Salt Lake City, left a will containing the following strange request concerning the disposition of his remains:—

"I request, order and command that if in the course of eight and forty hours it be known positively and clearly proven that I am dead, my heart may be removed from my body by some competent anatomist and placed immediately in a strong glass vessel having a ground glass stopper accurately fitted to the same, and that this vessel be immediately filled for the purpose of embalming my heart with a saturated solution, in hot water, of muriate of ammonia, sal ammonia and the corrosive sublimate of mercury and with the highest proof alcohol. This mixture to consist of equal parts of alcohol and the corrosive sublimate of sal ammoniac and the corrosive sublimate, until it will dissolve no more. The alcohol may be added to the solution while it is yet hot and the vessel filled therewith. The vessel must be stopped and sealed and the stopper securely covered with wet parchment and tied. I order this vessel, with its contents thus prepared and when cold, to be put into a thick oak plank box, made of the size to just receive it, and this box I order to be saturated with coal tar; this I wish enclosed in the remains of my dear and venerated mother, in the 'South of Newtown' burying ground, in the island of Nantucket, where I was born. My dear and excellent father, to whom I am indebted for my enlarged views of nature, lies by her side, and the same mound marks the resting place of both, and a single stone records the birth and death of each. Thus may this sacred spot be known where I wish my heart to rest forever after my heart has been removed and embalmed as above directed.

"I order that my body be burned in the most convenient manner that may dwell at the time of my death, may be able to adopt. I should be satisfied if the method of cremation as practised by the ancient Romans was adopted, but if this be not convenient or practicable my body may be burned in a retort, as is now practised in such cases in Germany. After this process is completed I desire and order that all that may remain of my bones and ashes may be gathered up, placed in a strong glass vessel similar to the one before described, and that this be treated in the same manner as that which shall contain my heart. It is my desire and command that this be taken to the cemetery of Mount Auburn, near Cambridge, Mass., and placed in the same grave and upon the coffin which contains the precious remains of my great, dear and venerated wife. In regard to the above request and commands I here furthermore express the desire and request that no religious ceremony or ceremony be permitted in the execution thereof than may be absolutely necessary to carry out my wishes, and I particularly request that no religious ceremonies, so called, by any priest, minister or layman of any creed or sectarian denomination be allowed or performed in connection with my death or the disposition of my remains. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. No man's intercessions toward Deity can modify these decrees; they are therefore useless and shams."

We have received information from William C. Pease, Esq., of California, formerly of this town, who appears to be the chief executor mentioned in the will, and who had arrived at Salt Lake City, stating that, because of the earnest entreaties of the children of Doctor Winslow and the other executor, he had delayed carrying into execution the cremation of the body, and that it would be embalmed and conveyed to Mount Auburn cemetery, in Cambridge, Mass. Mr. Pease has had the heart removed and embalmed as directed in the will.

Experiments in the retort that was erected for the cremation of the body, show that it would have been entirely successful, and the body reduced to ashes in about three hours.

DR. WINSLOW'S BODY CREMATED.—The remains of Dr. C. F. Winslow were cremated at Salt Lake City on Tuesday last, the process occupying about three hours. The heart had been removed and sent to this place for interment with his parents, and the ashes are to be sent to the grave of his wife at Mount Auburn.

THE INQUIRER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1847.

PERILOUS ADVENTURE. A letter received from Dr. Winslow, a short time since, gives the following account of a narrow escape from drowning which he had, in making a passage from Honolulu to Lahaina. The distance between the two places is about 70 miles. We think the Doctor's little narrative will be read with interest. He says:—

We weighed anchor at sunset, the trade wind blowing as usual, and of course almost ahead. We had a fine night's run of it, however, and in the morning were almost in sight of Lahaina, it being obscured only by the becling shores of Ranai. There the breeze left us, and with it went a precious hope that I might reach my family by one or two o'clock in the afternoon. We drifted about for twenty-four hours after that, and on Wednesday morning were further from Lahaina than the day before. I had not been out of my berth till that morning. I went on deck, and found the ocean profoundly calm, and the vessel ten miles perhaps from the West shore of Ranai. There was no prospect of wind. Two other vessels, which had started at the same time with us, were far ahead, and I was anxious on several accounts to reach Lahaina that day. The Captain let me have his boat and three hands—a seafaring passenger stepped in with me—and we pushed off, rather ignorant of the distance, but supposing ourselves not more than eighteen or twenty miles from home. After a pleasant, but long pull, we came immediately under the lofty and perpendicular cliffs of Ranai—cliffs of such immense height as to make one dizzy almost to look up to their summits. It was really a sight worth looking upon, and one that you would have much enjoyed. Layer upon layer of lava was presented to view, interrupted occasionally by a stratum of volcanic stones, and in one place, about half the height of the precipice, by a stratum of a whitish-yellow hue, appearing very much like the sand on the seashore. This was several inches in thickness, as it appeared from the sea, but it was many hundred feet high, and probably of much greater thickness. The appearance was curious, as it shewed its linear and waving front in the midst of the most awful and inaccessible cliffs of black lava that I have ever looked upon. But the most curious appearance of all in these precipices, were vertical veins of a lava apparently more fused and liquid when deposited than the horizontal strata, which seemed to have been divided asunder every few hundred feet, to receive the vertical deposits. These veins were not more than six or twelve inches wide, as they appeared from the sea. They were on a line or level with the rest of the surface, and extended from the summit to the base of the cliffs, where the waves were continually beating and roaring against their sides. In one place, where the water had poured over the edge of the precipice, the rock appeared to be worn away, so that there was a deep furrow many scores of feet in height next the sea. It was a very agreeable row along this coast, which, however, soon sloped down to a moderate height for the eye to rest upon. As we came to the first point, hoping to open Lahaina beyond, we found that we had yet to coast many miles before we should be able to sight that desired haven.—We kept near the coast, now and then meeting a little fishing establishment on the most accessible openings of its iron-bound and precipitous cliffs; and at about one in the afternoon, had advanced so far that we thought best to put into the channel that divided Ranai from Maui. We left the vessel at 1-4 before 7, A. M., and with little interruption our men had pulled to this time. They were considerably fatigued, the trades blew with some freshness through the channel, the waves were rather high, white-caps were peeping up in the offing, and I thought to myself that it might be a little risky to push on. But home was in sight,—wife and little ones I had not seen for many a day—I knew that others were longing and perhaps praying for my return—my companion, who

cunned the helm with skill, assured me there was no danger, and so I said, "On, boys! Come, row away! In three hours more the work will be over, and we'll all rest." The word given, on the little boat sped, and we advanced with boldness towards the middle of the passage. As we left the shore, the wind freshened and the waves rose;—the boat danced over them for a time, but at length she was tossed and plunged badly. Still she stood the weather well, and we urged her on. We had passed about a third through the passage, when the waves assumed a formidable magnitude, and curled over and broke with a surf, like billows rolling upon a coral reef. My hair stood on end, for it seemed as if we must be inevitably swallowed up. One wave broke into us. I had only bailed for pleasure before—now I bailed quick and anxiously. The danger was quite as imminent, should we turn back. One of the vessels which left Oahu the same evening that we did—the Haalilio—was beating up the channel and standing nearly towards us, but she was some distance off. While looking towards her, another wave, appalling to behold, rose up and broke so near us, as to partly fill the boat. I had bailed quick before—now I bailed for life. A little more water would have swamped us. The vessel approached—we turned toward her, and I waved my old hat for her with extreme earnestness. It is worth while to smile now, but it was no joke then. The captain bore up for us, hove his craft aback, but she rose and fell upon the seas so fearfully, that it was almost at the risk of life that we got on board. We took our boat in tow, and the next tack brought us on the Maui side of the Channel, in calm weather, and not many miles from Lahaina. We embarked again in our little boat, and at 1-4 to 7 reached home in safety—about 12 hours after we left the Hoitaita. She arrived at Lahaina on Thursday morning—the vessel that relieved us, at 10 the same night. It was a fatiguing and dangerous jaunt, but I have not regretted it on two accounts:—I arrived the sooner, and found my assistance needed to alleviate pain,—and it has taught me to be careful in future, and not expose myself in too tiny a bark, on a heavy sea.

C. F. W.

Prospect Hill Rehabilitation A Community Project

No doubt during the past few years the Nantucket people have regretfully noted the general rundown condition of our Prospect Hill Cemetery and have wished that steps would be taken to correct the situation. Because of inadequate income from invested funds, combined with the ever-rising cost of maintenance, it had not seemed possible to do much about it up to this time.

However, the Cemetery Association has now courageously embarked upon a project embracing a general rehabilitation of the cemetery property. This covers roadways, lots under perpetual care contract, as well as lots not yet sold, repairs and painting of fences, plus cost of water taxes and various other items of expense that go to make up the total required to complete this most worthy plan.

Accordingly, the Association asks the support of the Nantucket people and their friends in carrying out this work, not only cemetery lot owners, but those as well who have a reverence for our island landmarks such as Prospect Hill. It would seem that this mere request, without further urgings, would be sufficient to stir the pride and sentiments of our people, for here at Prospect Hill lie those of our families and friends who have passed on, many of whom helped to make Nantucket great a century or more ago. It should be considered both a duty and a privilege to open up our hearts and our pocketbooks so as to make Prospect Hill a place of beauty and a fitting place for our departed.

The Cemetery Association will be most grateful for your donation, either large or small, which may be sent to the undersigned.

Cora Stevens, Treasurer

Apr 10, 1959

Cemetery Association

To the owners of lots in Prospect Hill Cemetery:

Probably many of you read in this newspaper the recent article telling of the project of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association to rehabilitate the cemetery property, and stating that because of inadequate income from invested funds, it is necessary to solicit donations from our local people as well as friends of Nantucket living away from the island.

The response has been quite rewarding; however, it is far from sufficient to carry on the work presently planned. Accordingly, we are making a special appeal to you, the lot owners.

It is our thought that you who have a very special sentiment for that hallowed spot, would be glad to express that regard by making a gift to the association.

You may have noted, if you have recently passed the property that much progress has been made in the work and that the cemetery is a far more attractive place than it has been for sometime. When you visit Prospect Hill on this coming Memorial Day, we believe you will be impressed by the "new look."

Therefore, will you, the owners of lots, join in making it possible for us to complete our project. Your donations, whether large or small, will be gratefully received, we need your financial aid.

Cora Stevens, Treas.

Nantucket Captain to be Honored on National Maritime Day.

Under a proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the nation will observe Tuesday, the 22nd day of May, as National Maritime Day, to commemorate the first successful crossing of the Atlantic by a steamship.

Nantucket has a special part in this national observance. Captain Robert Inot, who commanded the first steamer to make that trans-Atlantic voyage, was a Nantucket man. Realizing that history makes but little mention of this doughty captain, and that honor has long been due him, The Inquirer and Mirror wrote to President Roosevelt, requesting that some measure of recognition be tendered Captain Inot on National Maritime Day. A reply came from the White House within three weeks time, which, in view of the fact that the President receives some six thousand letters a day, was very gratifying.

The Inquirer and Mirror's communication with the White House is as follows:

Nantucket Island, Mass.
April 23rd, 1934.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Under your proclamation of last year, the nation observed May 22d as National Maritime Day, commemorating the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in 1819 by the steamship "Savannah".

Captain Robert Inot, the "Savannah's" commander, was a Nantucket man. He had made a reputation for himself in sail long before he took the "Savannah" on her famous trip, being a packet and coasting skipper for many years. While on a voyage to the Gulf in 1825, he died at Tampico, and his body was brought back to his island home, where it now lies in an almost forgotten grave in the Old North burying ground.

Because we believe you will consider it fitting, we request that you delegate the Sons of the Revolution Chapter of Nantucket, as a capable organization, to hold appropriate exercises here on that day, and so acknowledge a debt which the Nation owes this Nantucket captain.

Yours very truly,
The Inquirer and Mirror.

The reply is as follows:

The White House
Washington.

May 7, 1934.

The Inquirer and Mirror,
Nantucket Island, Mass.
Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April twenty-third, requesting that the President designate the Sons of the Revolution Chapter of Nantucket to hold appropriate exercises on National Maritime Day.

I am enclosing, for your information, copy of the proclamation which the President issued on May fourth, calling upon and urging the people of the United States to observe May twenty-second as National Maritime Day.

While it does not appear that the President has any expressed authority in law to make the designation you suggest, he feels the holding of the proposed exercises by your Organization is a fitting and laudable undertaking, and that the Sons of the Revolution are to be commended for their civic and patriotic spirit in thus desiring to honor the memory of their countryman, Captain Inot.

Very sincerely yours,
Louis McHenry Howe,
Secretary to the President.

The Proclamation for the second National Maritime Day, issued by the President on May 4th, is as follows:

Whereas on May 22, 1819, the Steamship "The Savannah" sailed from Savannah, Georgia, on the first successful transoceanic voyage under steam propulsion, thus making a material contribution to the advancement of ocean transportation; and

Whereas the Congress by Joint Resolution of May 20, 1933, designated May 22 of each year as National Maritime Day and requested the President to issue annually a Proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such National Maritime Day;

Now, Therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do call upon and urge the people of the United States to observe May 22, 1934, as National Maritime Day by displaying the flag at their homes and other suitable places, and I hereby direct that Government buildings on that day. Government officials display the flag on

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused my seal to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this fourth day of May in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-eighth.

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

By the President:

Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State.

The Flag at Old North Burial Ground.

On Thursday of last week a small flag was placed on a grave in the Old North Burial Ground, remained there one or two days and was then carried away by a number of boys who, unaware of its significance, had thoughtlessly removed it.

The grave was that of Captain Robert Inott, of Nantucket, and the occasion for its decoration with the small flag was National Maritime Day—May 22—a day set aside some 15 years ago by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt in commemoration of the first passage by a steam vessel across the Atlantic Ocean. This voyage, of course, was that of the *Savannah*, which sailed from the city of that name in Georgia, May 22, 1819, and made the Western Ocean crossing to Liverpool, England, on June 20.

The log of the *Savannah* is still in existence, and the name of her commander on that crossing is Capt. Moses Rogers. It may be something of a puzzle, therefore, to understand the connection of the ship with Capt. Inott. The sign which was placed in Old North, a number of years ago, is rather misleading.

Capt. Robert Inott was born in Nantucket July 3, 1764, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Gardner Inott. In 1784 he married Judith, daughter of Paul Folger. When William Rotch went to France with the group of Nantucket whaling masters who established a fleet at Dunkirk, Captain Robert Inott was one of the company. He returned to Nantucket at the outbreak of the Revolution in France.

Inott made voyages in merchant craft for a number of years. He was intimate with several well known men of his day and made the first voyage on the *Clermont* up the Hudson with his friend Robert Fulton in 1807. During the war of 1812, Capt. Inott joined with Capt. John Barnard in the latter's famous cruises aboard the privateer *General Armstrong*. On one cruise they captured the British ship *Queen*, bound from England to Denemara with a cargo invoiced at £100,000. Unfortunately, in attempting to get the ship into New York by making a hazardous passage across Nantucket shoals, the ship was lost, a quantity of the goods coming ashore here. This was the second of two prizes which Capt. Barnard lost in Nantucket shoals, the first being the *Sir Sidney Smith*, lost with all hands on Bass Rip.

Capt. Daniel Elkins, of Nantucket, residing in New York, was an associate of Moses Rogers and a part owner of the *Savannah*. When it was decided to send the *Savannah* on a trial run to New York, Capt. Inott was asked to take command. He did so and thus became the first commander of that famous craft.

When the craft was turned over to Capt. Moses Rogers at Savannah, he was able to give this mariner full confidence in the vessel's ability to make the historic crossing under both sail and steam.

In the next year, 1820, Capt. Inott made a voyage to the South Shetland Islands after seals in the whaleship *Samuel*. Badly damaged by the ice, the ship nearly foundered, but Capt. Inott managed to bring her into Rio de Janeiro, where she was condemned and the seal skins and oil sold.

Returning home, Capt. Inott gave up sealing to take command of a merchantman sailing out of New York for Gulf ports. He made a number of successful voyages. In November, 1825, however, while berthed at Tampico, Mexico, he contracted the dread yellow fever and died. In accordance with his last requests, his body was brought home in a barrel of pickle and interred in the Old North Ground.

Oddly enough, two other figures who played a prominent part in the launching and sailing of the *Savannah* also met death from yellow fever. Capt. Daniel Elkins, of Nantucket, fell victim to the dread yellow fever the same year that Capt. Rogers also succumbed to the same disease—1823. He was buried in St. David's Church Yard, Cheraw, S. C. Both Elkins and Rogers were engaged in a boat-building venture on the Great Pee Dee River, S. C.

For many years the whereabouts of Capt. Rogers' grave was unknown. Victims of yellow fever were often hurriedly buried, and many times in graves soon forgotten. J. N. Stricklin, editor of the *Cheraw Chronicle*, in searching for Capt. Elkins' grave, discovered that of Moses Rogers close by. Each year, on National Maritime Day, this grave is decorated with a flag in commemoration of the historic voyage of the *Savannah*.

Mr. Editor:

I wish to ask two questions, which may be answered by some of your readers:

No. 1. How and when were prairie dogs introduced at Nantucket? I have always supposed that these animals were peculiar to the "West," and the prairies west of the Mississippi river, more especially, and it is surprising to hear of them upon an island off our coast.

No. 2. In the north burial ground at Nantucket are two graves which possess some interest for summer visitors, and are alluded to by the late Jane G. Austin in "Nantucket Scraps." The graves are those of Thomas Delop and Amos Otis, both of Barnstable, and the peculiar inscriptions on the stones set forth the fact, in each instance, that these two young men were cast ashore and perished in a snow storm on December 6th, 1771. Thomas Delop was the brother-in-law of Amos Otis, and the latter was one of the Otis family, from which came James Otis of the American Revolution, and, at a later date, Harrison Gray Otis, of Boston. Their vessel, which was proceeding to Halifax, was driven ashore during a violent gale and snow storm on Great Point, and was abandoned by officers and crew, all of whom reached the shore, only to succumb to the cold, with the exception of a boy 14 years old, and perhaps one or two others, who managed to crawl into a barn and buried themselves in the hay. Amos Otis, of Barnstable, a prominent citizen, and well-known genealogist, who died in 1875, aged 74 years, in alluding to this dreadful disaster in which his grandfather, Amos Otis, and his great uncle Thomas Delop, perished, states, that the boy who survived was named Weiderhold, and continued to live at Nantucket, where he died between 1830 and 1840. The question which I wish to ask is the following: Is there any old resident at Nantucket at the present time, who has seen and conversed with this survivor of the shipwreck; and are there any facts preserved concerning this particular storm, which is designated as "ye snow storm"? We are led to suppose that it was a storm of unusual character.

E. T. TUCKER, M. D.
New Bedford, Mass.

MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY.—The lot of land adjoining the Prospect Hill Cemetery on the north and east, has been donated by Capt. Henry Coleman to a number of persons, who have organized a cemetery corporation under the title of Mount Vernon Cemetery. The corporation was duly organized on Saturday evening last, and a constitution adopted, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Statute. Its officers consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who, *ex officio*, shall constitute a board of directors. The present territory available for burial lots will be leveled and staked off into about 60 lots of 20 feet square, and will be sold for \$10 per lot, the proceeds of such sales to be expended in beautifying and fencing the grounds. Deeds of lots will be recorded upon the books of the association as required by statute. Allen Coffin was chosen President, Horace R. Coleman, Vice President, Arthur H. Cook, Secretary and Treasurer.

Feb. 28, 1884

May 31, 1947

I wrote an article for the *Inquirer* in 1838 on the Forefathers' Burial Ground, and it was republished within a few years in the *Inquirer and Mirror*, and by mistake attributed to the late B. Franklin Folger. In that article I recommended fencing that ground with red cedar posts, after it should have been set off by the proprietors as a burial place forever. It was soon after set off by them, but the subscriptions for fencing only amounted to ten or fifteen dollars, so it has remained unfenced.

The first recorded death on the island is that of Jane, wife of Richard Swain, who died Oct. 31, 1602. Tradition says she was buried by her husband under the door stone. Jethro son of Edward Starbuck and a son of Thomas Macy, died early after the settlement. A careful examination of early records may bring to light when the Ancient Burial Ground, as such, was established. It was probably at an early period, set apart by authority for that purpose. In addition to those whom my friend S. has named as early officials buried there, I may add the names of Richard Gardner, Sen., who died January 28th, 1688, and of his brother, Captain John Gardner, who died May 6, 1703, and had both been chief magistrates under the New York government. Also of Joseph Gardner, who died in 1701, Peter Folger, 2d, Register of Probate, died 1707, William Gayer, Esq., who died September, 1710, Eleazer Folger Sen., who died in 1716, and Hon. James Coffin, who died in 1720, and probably several other officials of an early date, under the governments of New York or of Massachusetts Bay Colonies. Jonathan Coffin, Esq., and wife, who died in 1773, are said to be the last who were interred in this most ancient burial place of English ancestry.

In an article on the Friends' First Burial Ground, published in the *Inquirer* in 1839, I tried to call attention to that neglected, and by many forgotten spot. Probably it was set apart for a burial ground in 1711, when their first meeting house was built. In it were interred Mary Starbuck, in 1717, and Nathaniel, her husband, in 1719. Nathaniel Barnard, and Nathaniel, Jr., Stephen Hussey, James Gardner, and Sarah, his mother; probably also, James Coffin, Jr., and most of the Friends who died between 1711 and 1732, when Charles Clabby was buried in Friends' present burial ground, he being the first buried therein.

The first person buried in "the Gardner's Burial Ground" was Abigail, wife of Nathaniel Gardner, Sen., and daughter of Hon. James Coffin, Judge of Probate. She died in 1709. Her husband died in England in 1712 or 1713, whilst on a religious visit, he being a minister among Friends. Richard Gardner, Jr., Esq., Judge of Probate, was buried there in 1728. According to "Franklin," they were buried in the southwest part of said ground.

The first person buried in the Unitarian, now "Prospect Hill Cemetery," was John Hazleton Bailey, in 1811.

I have no history of the commencement of interments in the Polpis Burial Ground, nor in the Newtown Cemetery, nor in that for colored people, nor that for the Catholics. Would it not be well, since attention has been called to the subject, for some one at home to search the records, and find out when these several grave-yards were first used. Some persons take an interest in such grave and dry studies as the above.

Boston, Nov. 6th, 1877.

W. C. F.

SOUTH CEMETARY.—It is pleasant to notice the alterations and improvements which are constantly being made in this yard. The grounds have recently been materially enlarged, and new lots are constantly being taken up, handsomely enclosed, and many steps taken to beautify this "City of the dead."

Jan. 19, 1860

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As a citizen of Nantucket and taking pride in her early record and the noble work of our fathers, I want to reclaim the old cemetery on the hill near Maxey's pond, where once stood the old North Congregational Meeting-house, which was moved from there in 1765, and is now used as a vestry by the society, being in good condition, although one hundred and sixty-six years old.

I propose a marble monument, enclosed by an iron rail, with stone (granite) posts, that will stand for all time, and suggest the following inscriptions:

The earliest cemetery of our people. Here lies buried
TRISTRAM COFFIN, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1781.

THOMAS MACY, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1682.

EDWARD STARBUCK, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1690.

PETER FOLGER, grandfather of Benjamin Franklin, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1690.

(The four first mentioned were in office, under authority, when our island belonged to the state of New York.)

JOHN GARDNER, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1706.

These were all representative men of high repute, and should not be forgotten. The cost will involve an expenditure of about \$150. Any one disposed to contribute will please hand their names to

F. C. SANFORD.

Nantucket, Oct. 22, 1877.

(From the Mt. Auburn Memorial.)
The Graveyards of Nantucket.

BY MRS. J. H. HANAFORD.

It is a melancholy, and yet a pleasing privilege to stand beside the graves of departed friends. Nor is it a less welcome privilege when, after years of absence from his native place, one treads again the green paths of the "Necropolis" where rest the remains of many long-known and fondly remembered friends, some of whom have "passed on" since his own departure from the land of his childhood. He feels it to be a sad, yet welcome privilege to stand beside the mound that enshrouds love-hallowed dust, and read upon the fair marble headstone the name of the dear, departed one. Thrilling and sacred emotions filled my heart as I thus wandered recently amid the graves upon my island birth-place, and were this the time and place, my pen could inscribe many beloved names which spoke from the sculptured tombstone with an almost audible voice to my soul. Thank God! there was but one feeling in my heart in reference to death, as I stood upon the breezy uplands, or in the more sheltered spots where rest the dead of my native isle, and that is expressed by Longfellow in the cheering words:

"There is no death—what seems so is transition,
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian
Whose portals we call death."

I visited but four of the graveyards of Nantucket, know of but one beside. The one known as the South or Unitarian is probably the largest in area; that of the Congregationalists known as the North is in two parts, a road passing between, and appears to contain the most tombstones, but that known as the "Quaker burying-ground" has probably the most graves. I have no means of judging which has been the longest in use. With regret, I stood among the green mounds which alone marked the resting-places of deceased Friends, sympathizing with Mary Howitt, as I looked upon them, and could not recognize even the spot beneath which rested the mortal part of my own mother, whose youthful form was placed there one and thirty years ago. At that time, and until recently, no memorial stone was allowed to mark any grave. With a feeling of relief I found a few grave-stones there, usually low, square blocks of marble, with the name on top. And there were only six of those, one of which placed there by the generosity of Nathaniel Barney of Nantucket, and Hon. George B. Upton of Boston, marks the spot where rests the dust of a somewhat remarkable man—a genealogist and 'memory man.' Its simple inscription was "B. Franklin Folger, born 11th of 4th month 1777. Died 22d of 3d month, 1859."

The fourth graveyard which I visited was that used by the colored people. Upon one gravestone there was the following inscription: "Rev. Bristol Wright who was born in Norfolk, Virginia, 1770, died in Nantucket, Mass., January 5, 1849, aged 79 years."

He was a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal (Zion's) Church. After a short illness he died in full hope of heaven. His dying testimony was, "Now, Father, my work is done; I am ready to be offered. Glory! glory! glory!" And then he fell asleep in Jesus."

Much taste and care is shown in the adornment of the North and South burial-places. Iron fences, sculptured monuments, and sweet flowers bespeak a proper care for the resting spots of the unforgotten dead. The heathenish neglect of former years is fast passing away, without yielding to that superstitious reverence which bids the Chinese worship the graves of their ancestors, or that ostentation which rears costly monuments to the memory of the dead, and neglects the welfare of the living. Usually the inscriptions are simple, giving only names and ages. Sometimes the touching word "Mother" is alone inscribed. In one instance two large white stones are marked only the one "Mary," and the other "Martha." On another stone are sculptured three links, and a scroll simply marked, "Father, Mother and Sister." But few stanzas are inscribed on the tombstones. Texts of Scripture seem to be more generally preferred. The following stanza is from a stone in the North graveyard, upon which is sculptured a hand pointing upward:

"His mind was tranquil and serene,
No terror in his look was seen,
His Saviour's smile dispelled the gloom,
And smoothed his passage to the tomb."

One little gravestone, near, surmounted by a marble lamb, marks the resting place of "Little Emma." In the same graveyard is a stone, recalling the faithful labors of an excellent teacher, inscribed,—"Erected by the Pupils of the West Grammar School, to the memory of Thomas W. Rand, who died June 17, 1848, aged 43." A plain dark marble stone here tells the virtues of a beloved Christian. It is inscribed, "Paul Folger, born August 8, 1812, died January 1, 1845. A tribute of respect from many friends, for his marked virtues as a Deacon and Sunday-School Superintendent of the First Congregational Church in Nantucket." Deacon Folger was a lineal descendant of Peter Folger, the maternal grandfather of Dr. Franklin, and a brother of Mrs. Lydia E., wife of the phrenologist, Prof. L. N. Fowler. Another stone brings to mind a faithful laborer in His Master's vineyard by its inscription: "Rev. Freeman Shorman, died November 25, 1854, aged 74. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. They rest from their labors and their works do follow them." My heart was pleased, yet saddened, as I read the following truthful inscription on the gravestone of one early called. "William R., son of Abram and Sarah Pease, died November 20, 1854, aged 20 years 29 days." His was the student's life. He was of great promise both as a Christian and a scholar. He anticipated entering college, but before the long wished-for day arrived, he was wasting for the grave, and soon passed away.

"Thou hast gone from the earth away,
Gone to thy heavenly rest,
To meet thy God in youth's bright day,
In the mansions of the blest."

"Farewell dear Father, Mother, Brothers, Sisters and Friends; I bid you all adieu."

A few obelisks are in this graveyard, some marble, some granite. One of the latter commemorates the name of Martin T. Morfey, a former esteemed physician of this place. Many dark, moss-covered sand-stones are in the older portion of this graveyard, on two of which I saw traced the figures 1799 and 1806. Blackberry vines and the sweet brier overrun the paths in this part of the grounds, and forbade near approach to the stones. Here I noticed, for the first time, a stone with an inscription denoting the sleeper beneath as a husband, in the manner often used to denote wives. These were the words,—"Sacred to the Memory of Stillman Eldredge, consort of Lydia H. Eldredge, who died April 29, 1820, in the 33d year of his age. He lived a Christian,—a Christian's death he died, and now in glory with Christ he reigns forever." A small stone marks the resting-place of another physician, Dr. Roland Gileton who died in 1826, aged 68. One with Masonic emblems carved upon it, bore the inscription: "Psalm cxxxiii. Wilson Rawson died May 5, 1836, aged 82. Erected by his Masonic brethren;" and marked the spot where rests another Deacon of the First Congregational Church.

The South Cemetery contains the granite monument erected to the memory of a most successful and popular teacher, and bearing the inscription, on its four sides, "William Coffin, Teacher of Youth. Born May 4, 1798. Died April 29, 1839. Erected by his

grateful pupils." Here also rests the body of Obed Macy, the author of "The History of Nantucket," who died 12th mo. 21th, aged 82 years 11 months." In this graveyard is also the grave of the youthful wife of Rev. George Bradburn, who died in 1837. The tombstone of a child who was killed by a horse is adorned with this stanza:

"Mother, dear mother, I am sleeping,
Father look up to the clear, blue sky,
Where the beautiful angels bright watch are keeping,
Singing and shining, there am I."

The tombstone of Alexander Macy 2d, has on it the fine stanza:

"We trust thou hast entered that haven of rest,
Where sorrow and sighing and pain cannot dwell,
Where the ransomed are singing the songs of the blest,
Till we meet thee in heaven—farewell! farewell!"

My mind recurred forcibly to school-days, as I read on one stone the following: "Nancy W., daughter of Rev. Isaac and Eleanor Stoddard. Died October 3, 1845, aged 16. Died in faith, Heb. 11, 13." And another stone brought vividly to mind the beautiful features of a lovely and beloved Sabbath-School pupil, as I read beneath the sculptured foliage, reminding of amaranthine bowers, "Rebecca Upham Folger. Passed to the Spirit world, December 21, 1854, aged 20 years 10 months. There is no death. What men call death is but the soul's struggle for immortal freedom." Daughter of William and Lucy Folger." On the tombstone of Jeremiah Lawrence, Sheriff, is the stanza:

"Cold is the earth the perished dust must lie,
But that which warms it once shall never die,
That shall resist the triumph of decay,
When time is o'er and worlds have passed away."

A fine marble monument bears the inscription, "Barker Burnell, Member of the 27th Congress of the U. S., died at Washington City, June 15, 1843, aged 45." But by far the most perfect tombstone in Nantucket, considered as a work of art, is that commemorating the young children of Hon. G. W. and Mrs. M. G. Wright, of California. It stands upon the summit of a grassy mound, and consist of a marble scroll, surmounted by a lamb bearing a cross wreathed with flowers. Scarcely anything more suggestive and beautiful than this is reared amid the shades of Greenwood or Mt. Auburn. Other memorials to departed worth and buried loveliness interested me,

"As through the graveyard's lone retreat,
By meditation led,
I walked with slow and cautious feet
Above the sleeping dead."

but I will not lengthen my communication by mentioning more. I miss from the graveyards of Nantucket the trees which assist to beautify the "Laurel Hills" and "Valley Cemeterys" of our country. Only a few pines, through which the wind whispers in the South graveyard, and here and there some other tree, small and stunted, add to the attractiveness of these places of rest. I hope the day will come when all our cemeteries shall be adorned till their beauty shall typify the eternal loveliness of the Better Land.

Nantucket, July 28, 1860.

Aug. 14, 1860

SOUTH BURIAL GROUND.—Several valuable improvements have recently been made in this ground; new lots laid out, many of them enclosed with ornamented iron fences, others with neat wooden ones. The hollow at the northeast section is being filled up, and when completed will add much to the beauty of the ground. Under the care of Mr. Sheffield, the sexton, everything appertaining to the yard presents a neat and orderly appearance. We are glad to notice the interest taken on the part of several of our citizens in beautifying the resting place of departed friends; the numerous lots, neatly enclosed, with their tastily arranged gardens, impart an aspect of cheerfulness to this spot that in an infinite measure dispels the gloomy associations connected with the habitations of the dead.

March 15, 1859

Memorial Day Exercises.

The soldier and sailor dead were remembered with fitting ceremonies on Memorial Day, a very interesting programme of exercises having been arranged by Thomas M. Gardiner Post. The monument erected to the memory of the fallen heroes was adorned with flags, and wreaths and flowers made beautiful the inclosure in which it stands. During the forenoon the veterans' committee bedecked the graves of their comrades gone before, and we print below the names and the cemeteries where they lie:

New North.

Henry C. Russell.
Henry F. Coffin.

Old North.

Peleg W. Morgan.
William H. Friend.
Charles F. Fisher.
Hiram Fisher.

Mt. Vernon.

William C. Marden.
Roland J. Spencer.

Prospect Hill.

William H. Gruber.
David W. Rogers.
William H. Ellis.
George H. Swain.
Thomas W. Barrally.
Seth G. Chase.
Charles G. Macy.
Rufus Coffin.
William H. Swain.
Ferdinand Defriez.
William H. Myrick.
Alfred C. Brown.
Roland F. Coffin.
George M. Starbuck.
George Robinson.
Alexander P. Moore.
Andrew B. Green.
James A. Wilcomb.
James C. Hammond.
William R. Hathaway.
Samuel Christian.
Charles F. Barnard.
Nathan F. Fish.
Octavus W. Lewis.
Charles F. Ellis.
Isaac H. Folger.
Albert S. Mowry.
Leander F. Alley.
Arthur M. Rivers.
Samuel C. Meader.
James Folger.
George F. Alley.
George H. Tracy.
George W. Snow.
Frank T. Baker.
Benjamin Mitchell.
James Cathcart.
Hiram G. Gardner.
Edward F. Chadwick.
Nelson Waterman.
William H. Macy.
Henry G. Macy.
Albert P. Fisher.
Thomas M. Gardner.
George F. Parlow.
William B. Ray.
Robert B. Hussey.
Frederick W. Andrews.
William Hilliker.

St. Mary's.

Patrick Conway.

Colored.

John Swain.

Newtown.

Henry J. Brown.
James H. Austin.
Obed Coffin.
William H. Perry.
Shubael M. Winslow.
George A. Coffin.
Benjamin F. Wyer.
William H. Orpin.
Thomas H. Grant.
John B. Thomas.
Charles R. Gruber.

[Contributed.]

The "Old North".

Among the many worthy and worthwhile activities of the Nantucket Historical Association is the care of the Old North Cemetery. Up to within a few years this ancient "burying ground" has been sadly neglected, and it was gradually reverting to the original jungle. The fences were down, many of the head-stones had fallen, and the brush and brambles were fast covering and obliterating the paths and the graves.

A small appropriation was secured from the town for rebuilding the fence, and the custody of the cemetery was then placed in the hands of the Historical Association. Lack of funds for this purpose has prevented the Association from doing what it would have liked to do, though something has been accomplished.

Two devoted members spent many days copying all the inscriptions and epitaphs on all the stones, and these are all on file in an alphabetical card catalogue at the Association's rooms for reference by descendants of the old families or others interested. This permanent record is of inestimable value to genealogists and students of the island's history.

This summer a special effort has been made to continue the work of clearing the paths and roadways, and several contributions have been received from persons who are interested in this branch of the Association's work. The money has been judiciously expended as fast as received and a good start has been made.

Further contributions from any who are interested will be gratefully received by Moses Joy, Jr., or William F. Codd, who are the special committee in charge.

"Feet pass over the graveyard turf
Up from the sea and downward.
Some go down to the raging surf,
Some to the perils townward."
'Hearken! Hearken!' the dead men call
'Whose is the step that passes?
Knows he not we are safe from all
Under the nodding grasses?'

Let us preserve the "nodding grasses" and some of the wild roses and other native wild flowers, but let us at least keep the paths open, so that those who wish may stroll through "God's acre" and dream of the days and the people of Nantucket's glorious past.

Notice.

WE desire to call the attention of all who are especially interested in the New North Cemetery to the importance of improving the condition of the same by having the grass cut and the stones reset where required. For a long time general improvements have been needed which require immediate attention, and for which quite a large amount will be required. Less than one-half the sum needed has been contributed. We believe it only necessary to make our wants known in order to secure the balance of the amount required.

HENRY BROWN,
ALBERT G. BROCK,
EDWARD A. LAWRENCE, } Trustees.
ag9 4t

Mr. Editor:

I wish to ask two questions, which may be answered by some of your readers:

No. 1. How and when were prairie dogs introduced at Nantucket? I have always supposed that these animals were peculiar to the "West," and the prairies west of the Mississippi river, more especially, and it is surprising to hear of them upon an island off our coast.

No. 2. In the north burial ground at Nantucket are two graves which possess some interest for summer visitors, and are alluded to by the late Jane G. Austin in "Nantucket Scraps." The graves are those of Thomas Delop and Amos Otis, both of Barnstable, and the peculiar inscriptions on the stones set forth the fact, in each instance, that these two young men were cast ashore and perished in a snow storm on December 6th, 1771. Thomas Delop was the brother-in-law of Amos Otis, and the latter was one of the Otis family, from which came James Otis of the American Revolution, and, at a later date, Harrison Gray Otis, of Boston. Their vessel, which was proceeding to Halifax, was driven ashore during a violent gale and snow storm on Great Point, and was abandoned by officers and crew, all of whom reached the shore, only to succumb to the cold, with the exception of a boy 14 years old, and perhaps one or two others, who managed to crawl into a barn and buried themselves in the hay. Amos Otis, of Barnstable, a prominent citizen, and well-known genealogist, who died in 1875, aged 74 years, in alluding to this dreadful disaster in which his grandfather, Amos Otis, and his great uncle Thomas Delop, perished, states, that the boy who survived was named Weiderhold, and continued to live at Nantucket, where he died between 1830 and 1840. The question which I wish to ask is the following: Is there any old resident at Nantucket at the present time, who has seen and conversed with this survivor of the shipwreck; and are there any facts preserved concerning this particular storm, which is designated as "ye snow storm?" We are led to suppose that it was a storm of unusual character.

E. T. TUCKER, M. D.

New Bedford, Mass.

An Interesting Flag.

Many favorable comments were heard regarding the large flag flown from the staff in Prospect Hill cemetery on Memorial Day. That it was an unusually large flag was apparent to all, for the strong southwest wind spread it out to its full size. Anyone who noticed that the field was different from flags usually seen today and took the trouble to count the stars, found that there were but thirty-eight instead of forty-eight, as seen on modern flags. As each star denotes a state, a star being added for each state joining the Union, it is apparent that this flag dates back sixty years or so, when there were thirty-eight states and ten territories.

The ten territories becoming states since the flag was first flown so many years ago are: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, 1889; Idaho, Wyoming, 1890; Utah, 1896; Oklahoma, 1907; New Mexico, Arizona, 1912.

We understand that this handsome flag now belongs to the local American Legion Post, to whom it was presented by Mrs. Phebe A. (Swain) Tracy.

A By-Law Relating to Burial Lots:

THE Town Treasurer shall receive, hold, and apply such funds, moneys and securities as may be deposited with the town for the preservation, care, improvement and embellishment of any public or private burial place or of burial lots situated therein, which funds, moneys and securities shall be entered upon the books of the treasurer, and held in accordance with the request of the respective depositors. The treasurer shall deposit all such funds, moneys and securities in some reliable interest-paying institution in this Commonwealth, and pay the respective incomes therefrom, as accrued, for the purposes and to the parties indicated by the respective depositors thereof.

Approved July 1, 1902. Charles U. Bell, Justice Superior Court.

Attest: Josiah F. Murphey, Clerk of Courts.

Attest: Lauriston Bunker, Town Clerk.
Jy5 1m

MARBLE WORKS.



CHARLES H. ROBINSON,
Fair Street,
NANTUCKET, MASS.,

HAS now on hand a large stock of Italian marble, of the best quality, in Grave Stones, Tablets, Monuments, &c., of the most desirable designs, both plain and elaborately carved work, all of which will be sold at prices to suit any one wishing to purchase. All work will be set up by him, in a permanent manner, free of extra charge.
Iron Railings, Granite Curbing and Posts, furnished at reasonable prices. Designs of marble work and iron railing on hand for inspection. apl 20

1868

[Correspondence of The Inquirer and Mirror.]

An Epitaph.

Mr. Editor:

Some time ago I noticed in the INQUIRER AND MIRROR a statement that the Nantucket Historical Society were to collect ancient inscriptions from tombstones, such as might be of interest to present and future generations. On the main street of this village, opposite the modern built church, which with its neat tower and stained glass windows, is an ornament to the town, is situated the cemetery. Just behind the wall on the front of the "silent city of the dead" stands a gravestone, conspicuous to every passer-by. As this memorial tablet, now somewhat mossy with age, was contributed by Nantucketers in memory of one who served the North Church in the early part of the century, I thought you might like to give it a place in your columns. I give it exactly as it reads, with its quaintness of spelling, punctuation and expression:

Sacred
to the memory of
AMERICA BONNEY,
who was born in Plympton, Oct. 6, 1793, called to preach the gospel in 1817 & after being instrumental in gathering a church of 40 souls in Westport, & laboring with great acceptance and success in Wareham, Nantucket & other places departed this life Sept. 25, 1819 deeply lamented by many friends and churches.

Ah! say, has death forever hushed that voice
Which warn'd the sinner to repent and live,
Which bade the penitent in God rejoice,
And unto Jesus equal homage give?
No, over the soul,
Death has no controul,
But now in Heaven that voice with sweet acclaim
Excels in his munificent reward,
And with these relics silently proclaim,
To all prepare, prepare to meet thy God.
Presented by the first congregational Church & Society at Nantucket.

C. Darling, sculptor, Hudson.
Yours, interested in the Island Home,
W. D. WOODWARD.
WESTPORT POINT, MASS.

Dec. 5, 1896

The following touching "in memoriam" lines were copied from a tombstone in the Old North Burial Ground, Nantucket, Mass. The subject was a young lady who died in 1821:

If spotless honor and unsullied truth,
If smiling innocence and blooming youth,
If female sweetness, joined with manly sense,
If winning wit, that never gave offence,
If modesty, that never wore a frown,
And goodness, that may claim a heavenly crown;
If virtues such as these deserve a tear,
Here pour thy grief, for they are buried here.

Nov 15, 1899

For the Inquirer and Mirror.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I wrote a short article on the forefathers' burial-ground, which was published in the *Inquirer* on the 12th of September, 1838. I recommended therein that money be raised by subscription for the purpose of fencing and adorning with hardy trees that hallowed spot. So little was subscribed, the idea of fencing was abandoned, but my article induced the proprietors of the common and undivided lands to set off that tract of land as a burial-place forever. I see by the *Inquirer and Mirror* that a gentleman of this town has had a stone, which he intends to place there, inscribed with the names and dates of birth and death of persons whom he supposes were buried there. I was extremely sorry to find among them the name of Christopher Hussey, an early proprietor of Nantucket, one of the founders of Hampton, N. H., who died at Hampton, March 6th, 1685-6, and was buried there March 8th, 1685-6, O. S. I also see it states Tristram Coffin was born in 1609. As he is said to have been 76 years old at his death in October, 1681, he must have been born in 1605. It is somewhat uncertain whether some other persons whose names are inscribed on that stone, were not interred in one of the other burial-grounds. The first burial-ground of the Friends, situated south easterly from this ground, where their first meeting house, erected in 1711 and burned down in 1736 stood, had many ancient graves; among them may be mentioned that of Mary Starbuck, wife of Nathaniel, who died in 1717; Stephen Hussey, who was buried there in 1718, and Nathaniel Starbuck, Senr., in 1719. The present burial-ground of Friends was first used for that purpose in 1731, Charles Clasby being the first person interred there. But few were buried in their first ground after 1731. The first person buried in the Gardner's burial-ground was Abigail Gardner, wife of Nathaniel, and daughter of Hon. James Coffin. She died in 1709. Hon. Richard Gardner, Jr., was buried there in 1728, and Eleazer Folger, 1st, in 1716, as I have been informed. Among the very last, if not the last, buried in the first or forefathers' burial-ground, were Jonathan Coffin, Esq., and wife Hepsebeth, who both died in 1773.

I have repeatedly been told that the present vestry of the Orthodox Congregationalist Society was built in 1711, near the old town house and jail, just beyond the Holmes country, so called, and not far from the John Brook and Eben Barnard houses on West Centre street, on the north side of the road, not far from the "no bottom pond," so called. Many of the Congregationalists lived in 1711 in that vicinity and still further eastwardly. Such statements as have been cut on that stone, intended to be erected on the ancient burial-ground, are calculated to mislead the present and future generations, and will be a subject of regret to all who desire accuracy.

WILLIAM C. FOLGER.

July 30, 1881

For the Inquirer and Mirror.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As a citizen of Nantucket, and taking pride in her early record and the noble work of our fathers, I want to reclaim the old cemetery on the hill near Maxey's pond, where once stood the old North Congregational Meeting-house, which was moved from there in 1765, and is now used as a vestry by the society, being in good condition, although one hundred and sixty-six years old.

I propose a marble monument, enclosed by an iron rail, with stone (granite) posts, that will stand for all time, and suggest the following inscriptions:

The earliest cemetery of our people. Here lies buried

TRISTRAM COFFIN, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1781.

THOMAS MACY, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1682.

EDWARD STARBUCK, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1690.

PETER FOLGER, grandfather of Benjamin Franklin, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1690.

(The four first mentioned were in office, under authority, when our island belonged to the state of New York.)

JOHN GARDNER, born in England, died at Nantucket in 1706.

These were all representative men of high repute, and should not be forgotten. The cost will involve an expenditure of about \$150. Any one disposed to contribute will please hand their names to

F. C. SANFORD.

Nantucket, Oct. 22, 1877.

THE ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND.—The stone which marks the grave of John Gardner in the "Ancient Burial Ground," near Maxey's pond, is fast going to decay. Fragments have recently been split from it, probably by the frosts of the past winter. Only the right half of the face of the headstone now remains, bearing the words

ES BURIED
dy of
GARDNER
GED 82
died
May
706.

Would it not be well to have a new stone cut, of the exact style of the old one, while enough of the latter still remains to serve as a pattern, and thus mark the spot for another century? The expense would be but trifling; and as the place is now getting to be one of the points of interest to many of the strangers visiting our island, it should be attended to at once. Let some one start a subscription. Our mite is ready.

Aug. 11, 1877

PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY.—The unexampled mildness of the winter thus far, has enabled Mr. James Collins to continue his labors of levelling and grading the grounds in this enclosure since Christmas, without interruption from frost. Much labor has been done, principally on the south side of the ground, where the deep and unsightly valley has been filled in, and two rows of lots laid out on the sides, leaving a large level tract in the centre. Mr. Collins has been employed in this cemetery at intervals, for twenty-two years, and has transformed much of the original hilly and uneven surface of the new ground into level yards and walks. The older portion of the cemetery, which has been used as a burial place since the early part of the present century, has of course remained untouched.

Feb. 16, 1876

The Cemetery Fence.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

The fence around the old North Cemetery, for which subscriptions were collected last fall, is now completed, and presents a very satisfactory appearance. Locust posts have been used and the best grade of galvanized wire, and the fence is probably as durable as any kind now available. The total cost, (including repairs to the back fence) is \$87.22. The amount of subscriptions up to date is \$77.25, which leaves a balance of \$10 still to be raised. We shall be grateful for any contributions toward this deficit. Now is a good opportunity for those who intended to contribute before but did not. We invite inspection of the new fence.

Henry S. Wyer.

March 14, 1908

Prospect Hill at Sunset.

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

The enclosed lines might bring a bit of comfort to those who have lost members of their families and dearly loved friends (there have been so many lately) and buried them on Prospect Hill. The sunsets here do seem to have an unearthly beauty—perhaps there's so much sky goes with an island.

I hope you will find the poem acceptable for The Inquirer and Mirror.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Dixon Glidden.

May 2, 1950.

Prospect Hill at Sunset.

Fingering the hallowed
quiet hill
with long bright shafts
of light—
lingering to twist
with gold
the rising mist
of eventide,
the crimson sun
sets slowly—
loath to leave
this blessed hill
until God will
to light
His first fair star
of night—
beacon high
above the darkening sea.
this is God's acre-age
not death's—
this is eternally
by star
and sunset blest
where His "travelers"
rest.

—Eleanor Dixon Glidden.

May 30, 1950



CHARLES H. ROBINSON,

Successor to Josiah Sturgis,

WILL keep constantly on hand, Monuments and Grave Stones, which he will finish to order at short notice, and on as reasonable terms as can be purchased elsewhere. Those wishing to perpetuate the memory of departed friends, will do well to call at No. 36, Plumb Lane, n28

1850

The Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

As the only survivor of the original committee appointed in 1873 to have the care of the Prospect Hill cemetery, I ask you to kindly give me space in your valuable paper to briefly reply to an article published in your issue of the 4th instant, headed "Disgraceful Indeed," and signed by William C. Gardner, in which he says, "It will take effort and money now to repair the neglect of years, and I earnestly hope that attention having been called to this matter, concerted action of those interested may be taken, so that we may no longer be ashamed of the appearance of the Prospect Hill cemetery."

I wish to make a statement relative to this cemetery, that, the public may judge whether the allegation of neglect made by Mr. Gardner is sustained. The Prospect Hill cemetery is not a corporation with a large endowment fund, and a paid superintendent; but it is owned and controlled (through its committee) by the "Second Congregational Meeting-House Society (Unitarian)."

It was first started soon after the said society was incorporated, by the "Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Land of Nantucket" setting off to it a certain tract of land. Like most of the land in that vicinity it was poor, sandy soil. Other land has been purchased from time to time.

At an annual meeting of the proprietors of the Second Congregational meeting-House Society, held April, 1873, Joseph B. Macy, Alexander Macy and myself were chosen a committee to have the care of the cemetery. I was also chosen treasurer. At that time the fence inclosing the cemetery was very poor, and the roof of the hearse-house had partially fallen in. It was in debt to the former agent \$227.00.

This debt was paid the following year, from the proceeds of lots sold, and since that time there has been expended for a new fence, land bought, survey of the cemetery and plot of lots, Wannacomet water let in, hearse-house repaired, and other improvements to the amount of \$3927.18, leaving to the credit of the cemetery fund a sufficient sum to meet future contingencies.

The committee has served without pay, excepting the one having the care of selling lots, who received a small commission on sales. As treasurer for thirty-five years, I have not made any charge for my services. An annual account has been rendered to the society, showing receipts, expenditures and balance invested. No voluntary contributions have been made to the cemetery fund—the income has been wholly from lots sold.

The late Andrew J. Morton, whose remains were laid in this cemetery, very thoughtfully provided in his will for the erection of the very substantial and ornamental gate-way on the East side of the cemetery. In conclusion I will say that, though the condition of the cemetery is not as good as we would like to have it, I am sure that it is in a much better condition than it was in 1873, when the original committee was appointed, and furthermore, that it has not been neglected. Thaddeus C. Defriez.

The Old North Cemetery.

We started out on Tuesday morning to visit the Old North Cemetery, knowing that it should offer an opportunity for a good story.

The Historical Association was made custodian of the cemetery in 1923 and it has been instrumental in getting the WPA men to grade the cemetery. The men have taken out some of the weeds and bushes and are making headway with the rest of them. When the project is finished the Nantucket Historical Association intends to plant a hedge around the outside. If the appropriation holds out, another intention is to plant grass among the tombstones.

The oldest tombstone believed to be there dates back to 1709 and is that of Abigail Gardner. She died on March 15, 1709 at the age of forty-two, and for many years her tombstone was the only one in the cemetery. As yet, it has not been located by the workmen. The oldest that has been found is that of Mrs. Margrit Hussey, dated 1746.

Slabs of slate and wood have been located buried under two feet of ground, with the names and dates worn off.

The following is the epitaph on the tombstone of Robert Ratliff:

"He was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, February 23, 1794. He was one of the sailors of the ship "Northumberland" which took Napoleon to Saint Helena in 1815. In December, 1820, a ship which he was on was driven aground on Nantucket South Shore. He died in 1878 and was buried in the Old North Cemetery."

The following is an account of Reuben Chase, who is believed to have been the inspiration for the character of Long Tom Coffin in the famous novel "The Pilot" by James Fenimore Cooper. He fought with John Paul Jones on "Bon Homme Richard" as midshipman. Later he was 2nd Lieutenant of "La Bonne Adventure" a French privateer fitted out by John Paul Jones.

He was born at Nantucket, June 23, 1754, and died here. The following is an epitaph written on his tombstone by his brother Capt. Joseph Chase:

Free from the storms, and gusts, of human life
Free from the noise of passion, and of strife
Here lies Reuben Chase, buried,
Who hath stood the sea
Of ebbing life, and flowing misery.
He has no Dandy rigged, his prudent eye foresaw
And took a reef at fortune's quickest flaw,
He luffed, and bore away, to please mankind
The duty, urged him still to head the wind.
Rheumatic gusts, at length his mast destroyed,
Yet, jury health awhile he still enjoyed,
Laden with grief, and age, and shattered here
At length he struck, and grounded on his Bier,
Heaven took its Ballast, from its deepest hold
And left his body a wreck, destitute of soul.

We would like to thank Mr. Charles Kimball, Dr. Congdon, Miss Mary Starbuck and the WPA workmen at the cemetery for their kindness in telling us about the Old North Cemetery.

Edited by Anne Hillier,
Assisted by Elizabeth Norton.

The "Old North" Cemetery.

Editor of The Inquirer and Mirror:

Of the multitudes who ride or walk through New Lane, between the "New" and "Old North" cemeteries, many have wondered, no doubt, why the latter enclosure, containing as it does the graves of so many of Nantucket's earlier generations, should be so utterly neglected. The ancient board fence around it has been patched up from time to time, this work being promptly undone by the cattle that pass through daily, and gain easy access to the cemetery.

A main reason for the long neglect of properly fencing this enclosure is that no church or other organization has jurisdiction over it. Originally a private or family burial ground, it was gradually extended and finally became a public cemetery without formal action, and was so continued until the whole lot was filled. Of the countless graves in this neglected enclosure, (a large number being unmarked and forgotten) many are the last resting-places of the immediate ancestors of people now living. Among them are the graves of my own parents and grand-parents.

I am far from desiring to "improve" or modernize this time-honored burial ground, but would rather leave it, as heretofore, to Nature's processes (except that stones, once set, should be maintained in proper position). There should, however, be a suitable fence set on the two lanes, so that the cattle may be excluded. For this purpose I now solicit subscriptions—large or small—from all who feel any interest in the proper care of this "God's Acre," wherein lie the mortal remains of so many of our ancestors. Of the fence material now used, the improved (or crossed) wire is the most durable, as well as the least conspicuous. If prompt contributions warrant it the proposed fence will be erected at once. Henry S. Wyer.

Aug. 3, 1907.

New Gate-way at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Under the will of the late Andrew J. Morton, provisions are made for the erection of a new gate-way at Prospect Hill Cemetery, which is to be of somewhat imposing structure. The trustees of the cemetery already have the plans well under way and the gate-way will probably be completed within two months. Large stone piers, 4 feet at the base and 3 feet 8 inches at the top, are to be erected on either side of the gate-way, which is to be 12 feet wide. These piers will be surmounted by silichite caps, and on one side will bear the inscription "Prospect Hill Cemetery. 1810." and on the other, "This gate-way the gift of Andrew J. Morton." The gates will be of iron, of ornamental design.

Aug. 20, 1904

The Old North Burying Ground.

By Charles P. Kimball.

At a special town meeting on August 14, 1923, the Town took over the Old North Cemetery, so-called, under the statute which permits towns to take possession of abandoned or neglected burying grounds. In so doing it appointed this Association agent thereof, though of just what the duties of agent consisted, it was not specified. Suffice it to say that up to this past winter, neither the Town nor the Association had taken any action for this ward, beyond a rather half-hearted moving of brush the first year.

This winter, however, the Town was able to divert some of the Government's lavish outpourings into useful work on the Old North Cemetery, and although only the clearer southern half has been brought into a semblance of tidiness, we have been promised a further and sufficient subsidy this fall to finish the work of clearing up the brambles, and possibly righting the fallen tombstones.

Through an appropriation from the Town we have also been enabled to put in a complete circuit of privet hedge, which as it grows will eventually replace the uninspiring wooden fence that now guards three sides only of the lot. We should also like to map the lot and have a permanent record of the location of the grave-stones now standing, but all that, of course, depends on how far we can stretch the funds.

So much for the recent history. Now as to its past.

Unfortunately, very little information appears to be available relative to the beginnings of the Old North Cemetery. Godfrey, in his Nantucket Guide, published in 1882, says that William C. Folger, a well-known antiquarian, is authority for the statement that it was originally the private burying ground of the Gardner family, and that the first interment was that of Abigail Gardner, wife of Nathaniel, who died March 15, 1709. She was the daughter of James Coffin and Mary Severance. Nathaniel was the son of the first Richard Gardner and Sarah Shattuck.

It is common knowledge that descriptions of real estate of that period are mostly by bounds that cannot be located today. Consequently it is not surprising that the original set-off of this particular piece of land has not yet been established, although it is not far from the so-called Crooked Record set off to Richard Gardner. Nor does the will of Nathaniel (he died in 1713) give us any clue, his land being simply left in part to his children and in part to be sold for their advantage. During his lifetime he made no conveyance to the Town, nor in any other way recorded his desire, if such he had, of making this lot a public cemetery. Nor is there any such conveyance on the part of his immediate descendants. Godfrey states further that Richard Gardner, Jr., Esq., who died in 1728, was also buried here, but when the place became a more public burial ground is not apparent. The oldest tombstone now standing is that of Margret Hus-

sey, wife of Obed Hussey, and bears the date Dec. 14, 1746. As she was the daughter of John and Margret Wilson, it must have been at or before this time that persons other than Gardners were buried here.

Between that date and the last interment, that of Robert Ratliff, the master rigger, in 1882, many hundreds were laid to rest in this peaceful spot, some after a commonplace death from old age, others amid storm and shipwreck. Among the crowd of "village Hampdens" and "mute, inglorious Miltons" there is a very generous sprinkling of men who left their mark. Of these, Robert Ratliff has been mentioned, and two others must suffice—Reuben Chase and Robert Inot. Mr. Stackpole has very kindly informed me, as a result of his researches, that Captain Inot was the first actual commander of the steamship Savannah, but that his command was limited to taking her from New York, where she was built, to Savannah. However, there is one other tombstone which arouses interest, that of Phebe Allen, which was "Erected by a number of young men friends of the deceased". The story is given in the Inquirer for July 26, 1849, as follows:

"One of the most dreadful accidents that ever occurred at Nantucket took place last Tuesday at Madaket. A large party of young gentlemen and ladies from Town were spending the day at Capt. Nathan Chase's and, between ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon, nine of the company—six ladies and three gentlemen—went out in a boat bluefishing. About noon, when off Eel Point, something more than a mile from shore, in coming about, the sheet of the sail got caught and the boat upset and sunk. The three young men, all being whalemens and used to similar accidents, succeeded very soon in cutting away the mast, rolling the ballast out, and getting the ladies, who were of course very much frightened, onto the bottom of the boat. Here they supported them for about an hour, sometimes in one position, and sometimes in another, the boat constantly rolling; until at length they were able to place them in such a position that one of the young men, Mr. Benjamin S. Morton, thought it would be safe for him to leave and swim to the shore for assistance, it being very evident, as they were immersed in the water up to their armpits, that they were rapidly becoming chilled and were, moreover, slowly drifting out to sea, and unless help could soon be procured, they must all perish. He, accordingly, after consulting with his companions, took off his clothes and started for the nearest land—Eel Point. In crossing two tide rips which lay between him and the shore he came very near drowning; he finally succeeded, however, in reaching the shore, but was so much exhausted when he landed, that he could not stand.

About this time, Captain Chase, having discovered, a few minutes before, the situation of the party, left the shore near his home in company with two or three others, in a boat, to render assistance. They made the best of their way for the sunken boat, but having about two miles to go, two of the young ladies had perished

before they reached them. Their bodies were found inside of the boat, entangled in the lines, where they had fallen when unable to hold on any longer. The survivors, and the bodies of those who were drowned, were taken into Capt. Chase's boat and brought immediately to the shore. Those who were saved were very much exhausted; some of them were confined to their beds yesterday. The only wonder is that any of the party escaped with their lives; they would

not have done so, had it not been for the coolness, courage and energy of the young men.

"The names of those who were drowned are Susan P. Cleveland, a daughter of Mr. Zimri Cleveland, aged 25, and Phebe Allen, a daughter of Mr. George Allen, deceased, aged 18. Both of the young ladies, we are informed, were particularly beloved and respected by all who knew them. This dreadful termination to an excursion which was entered upon with the brightest anticipations of pleasure, excited the most intense consternation among the members of the company—the ladies in particular.

"The following are the names of those who were saved from the sunken boat: Sarah S. Folger, Harriet S. Folger, Eliza B. Folger, Ann G. Smith, Benjamin S. Morton, William A. Folger, and John D. Mitchell."

Such was the tragic end of a blue-fishing expedition, and now let us go back to Nathaniel Gardner, or rather to his estate, for the inventory of it makes very interesting reading as illustrating the worldly possessions of a man in comfortable circumstances at that period. It is very specific and occupies four double-column pages in the Probate Records. The total appraised value is set at £484 15s 8d. Some of the more interesting items are as follows: 3 pillowbers 6/6 (pillowber is an archaic term for pillow case). Some linnin (sic) cloth £5 19s 4d. More linnin cloth £2 19s 8d. A parcel of knives from London £18 12s 11d. A parcel of needles from London 15/- 3 pr. silk gloves £1 10s. Dwelling house and garden with its fence £70. This inclusion of the fence was a matter of some importance, as we find further on—fencing about the lot £8 5s. 6 fish hooks were valued at 1/6. A silver cup £4 4s 5d. Nathaniel was either in the hat business or very much of a dandy, for his estate contained no less than 33 hats, ranging in value from 3/- to 20/-, and 10 caps at 5/- the lot. He had one boat and craft valued at £4 12s, and from the conjoined use of the two terms, one suspects that there was a fine distinction of meaning, now lost. There is mention of Indian debts £13 17s 4d. And one last item worth mentioning—½ acre of land £2. Could this by any chance be the original cemetery? But whether it is or not, I can recommend the perusal of Nathaniel's estate to anyone interested in the life of the period. It is a fascinating description, and has the further recommendation of being written in a beautiful, legible hand.

[Read at the Annual Meeting of the Nantucket Historical Association, held last week.]

Aug. 22, 1936

The Old North Cemetery.

Acting under vote of the town meeting, whereby the Historical Association was made custodian of the Old North cemetery, a special committee has been appointed by the association to investigate into the cost of improving the enclosure and either repairing or rebuilding the fence.

This cemetery has long been neglected and it is one of the historic spots, containing the remains of many of the prominent Nantucketers of the early days.

Some of the epitaphs on the stones are interesting, dating back into the 1700's, but the growth of brush and bushes is such that many are obscured from view; in fact, it is very difficult for anyone to enter the old cemetery at all.

A statute makes provision for such cases, and under it the town, through its selectmen or special commissioners, has the right to expend money for the improvement and preservation of such neglected burial grounds.

Our young people are sometimes accused of mischievous acts of which they are innocent. Members of the Historical Association have been in the old North cemetery, during the past few weeks copying the epitaphs. In order that there might be no "doubling up," they have left a line strung across the whole length of the cemetery, so that they would know where to begin. It remained for sometime undisturbed, but one day it was missing. Loud were the denunciations of our boys. It seemed a pity to the dignified members of the council that this important string might not remain unpulled. Sometime before this, however, an artist sallied forth into this little village of the dead, and soon found himself in a dreadful tangle. His feet were tied so that he could not move. Long he worked, and loud, and possibly profanely he spoke of the mischievous Nantucket boys. Fate brought the members of the council and the artist together, and now the Nantucket boy is better understood.

[Contributed.]

The "Old North".

Among the many worthy and worthwhile activities of the Nantucket Historical Association is the care of the Old North Cemetery. Up to within a few years this ancient "burying ground" has been sadly neglected, and it was gradually reverting to the original jungle. The fences were down, many of the head-stones had fallen, and the brush and brambles were fast covering and obliterating the paths and the graves.

A small appropriation was secured from the town for rebuilding the fence, and the custody of the cemetery was then placed in the hands of the Historical Association. Lack of funds for this purpose has prevented the Association from doing what it would have liked to do, though something has been accomplished.

Two devoted members spent many days copying all the inscriptions and epitaphs on all the stones, and these are all on file in an alphabetical card catalogue at the Association's rooms for reference by descendants of the old families or others interested. This permanent record is of inestimable value to genealogists and students of the island's history.

This summer a special effort has been made to continue the work of clearing the paths and roadways, and several contributions have been received from persons who are interested in this branch of the Association's work. The money has been judiciously expended as fast as received and a good start has been made.

Further contributions from any who are interested will be gratefully received by Moses Joy, Jr., or William F. Codd, who are the special committee in charge.

"Feet pass over the graveyard turf
Up from the sea and downward.
Some go down to the raging surf,
Some to the perils townward."
'Hearken! Hearken!' the dead men call
'Whose is the step that passes?
Knows he not we are safe from all
Under the nodding grasses?'"

Let us preserve the "nodding grasses" and some of the wild roses and other native wild flowers, but let us at least keep the paths open, so that those who wish may stroll through "God's acre" and dream of the days and the people of Nantucket's glorious past.

The Old North Cemetery.

We started out on Tuesday morning to visit the Old North Cemetery, knowing that it should offer an opportunity for a good story.

The Historical Association was made custodian of the cemetery in 1923 and it has been instrumental in getting the WPA men to grade the cemetery. The men have taken out some of the weeds and bushes and are making headway with the rest of them. When the project is finished the Nantucket Historical Association intends to plant a hedge around the outside. If the appropriation holds out, another intention is to plant grass among the tombstones.

The oldest tombstone believed to be there dates back to 1709 and is that of Abigail Gardner. She died on March 15, 1709 at the age of forty-two, and for many years her tombstone was the only one in the cemetery. As yet, it has not been located by the workmen. The oldest that has been found is that of Mrs. Margrit Hussey, dated 1746.

Slabs of slate and wood have been located buried under two feet of ground, with the names and dates worn off.

The following is the epitaph on the tombstone of Robert Ratliff:

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And took a reef at fortune's quickest
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The duty, urged him still to head the
wind.
Rheumatic gusts, at length his mast
destroyed,
Yet, jury health awhile he still en-
joyed,
Laden with grief, and age, and shat-
tered here
At length he struck, and grounded on
his Bier,
Heaven took its Ballast, from its
deepest hold
And left his body a wreck, destitute
of soul.

We would like to thank Mr. Charles Kimball, Dr. Congdon, Miss Mary Starbuck and the WPA workmen at the cemetery for their kindness in telling us about the Old North Cemetery.

Edited by Anne Hillier,
Assisted by Elizabeth Norton.

March 26, 1936

Stories on Stone.

Three unusual inscriptions from Nantucket are included in "Stories on Stone: A Book of American Epitaphs", published recently by the Oxford University Press of New York. They are from the Old North Cemetery. One epitaph marks the grave of William F. Upham, who died in 1850 at the age of 10. It records:

"Mother oh Mother I am not sleeping
Father look up to the soft blue sky
Where beautiful stars bright watch
are keeping

Singing and shining there am I."

Another is from the gravestone to Edward Cary, who died in 1812, aged 74:

"Learn then, ye living! by these
mouths be taught

Of all these sepulchres, instruction
true,

That, soon or late, death also is your
lot;

And the next opening grave may
yawn for you!"

This inscription was transcribed
from a small slate stone in the same
burying place more than 50 years ago:

"Under the sod

Under these trees

Lies the body of Jonathan Pease

He is not here

But only his pod

He has shelled out his peas

And gone to his God."

"Stories on Stone", edited by Charles L. Wallis, professor of English at Keuka College, Keuka Park, N. Y., contains more than 750 humorous, eccentric, sentimental, patriotic, and historical epitaphs from all states and from each decade in American history. It is the first comprehensive publication of American graveyard lore and literature.

THE JOHN GARDNER GRAVESTONE.—We are informed that the amount subscribed for a new gravestone to take the place of the obliterated one which has stood the ravages of time for about one-hundred and seventy-five years, has reached a sum sufficient to warrant ordering the new stone, and that the order has been given. It will contain the same inscription the old one did when it was legible, and be about the same height above ground, but will be of granite much thicker than the old blue stone one, and descend into the earth a sufficient depth not to be easily changed from a perpendicular by frosts. Only a few dollars more are necessary to pay the expense of the new stone, and any of John Gardner's numerous descendants desiring to contribute a dollar for this object, can send it to this office, and we will see that it is properly applied. Tristram Coffin, Esq., of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., has the general matter in charge.

Nov. 2, 1881

For the Inquirer and Mirror.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Upon a recent visit to the old burial ground, now marked by the substantial monument erected by Mr. Sanford, I noticed with pain that since I was last here ten years ago, the headstone which indicates the grave of John Gardner had suffered serious injury at the hands of the relic hunters. Before the lapse of another decade, if it is allowed to remain in its present position, it is more than probable that the unscrupulous vandals will have completed its destruction. This ancient stone, shattered as it is, should be held exceedingly precious, not only by the descendants of the good and true man whose ashes rest beneath it, but by every individual who feels an interest in the past or future of the little island. It is not at all unlikely that twenty-five years hence, in 1906, upon the two hundredth anniversary of his death, his posterity will gather here in large numbers, and if this old grave-mark is then in existence, even in its present condition, it will certainly be considered a very interesting memorial, and its preservation will be regarded as a most fortunate circumstance. My object in writing this note, is to call the attention of the resident representatives of one of Nantucket's most worthy patriarchs to the subject, and to suggest that the stone be removed to your museum and there carefully preserved, and that a new one be substituted for it by the grave over which it has stood guard so faithfully for one hundred and seventy-five years of time.

Truly yours,

TRISTRAM COFFIN.

Nantucket, August 24th, 1881.

RECORD OF BURIALS.—Mr. Benjamin C. Sheffield, who has held the office of sexton here for the past twenty-two years, is to give place to Mr. John W. Macy, who, it is stated, will carry on the undertaking business in connection with his other duties. Mr. Sheffield, who retires this month, has handed us the following figures, which give the total number of burials by him in each year since 1855:

Number of burials in 1856,	149
" " " 1857,	94
" " " 1858,	104
" " " 1859,	106
" " " 1860,	97
" " " 1861,	104
" " " 1862,	109
" " " 1863,	94
" " " 1864,	129
" " " 1865,	136
" " " 1866,	98
" " " 1867,	94
" " " 1868,	80
" " " 1869,	106
" " " 1870,	98
" " " 1871,	98
" " " 1872,	87
" " " 1873,	113
" " " 1874,	94
" " " 1875,	83
" " " 1876,	96
" " " 1877,	129

Total, 2298

In twelve of the twenty-two years it will be seen that the number of burials fell short of one hundred, while in but five did they exceed one hundred and ten.

Jan. 5, 1877

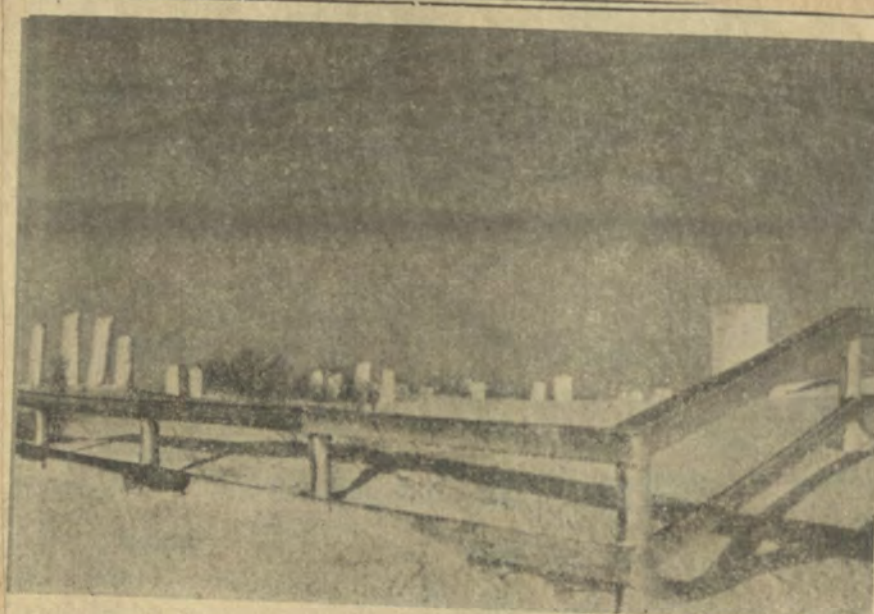


Photo by L. Stackpole
An unusual view of Old North Cemetery, taken early Sunday morning.

JOHN GARDNER'S GRAVESTONE.—By the suggestion of Tristram Coffin, Esq., of Poughkeepsie, and through his efforts and those of several others, a subscription, amounting to about twenty-five dollars has been raised to procure a new headstone for the grave of John Gardner the first, in place of the one which has stood the ravages of time for one hundred and seventy-five years, and for many years a lone sentinel upon the old cemetery hill. The old stone will be removed to a place of safety as a sacred relic whenever the new stone is ready to be set up. About twenty-five dollars more are required to make this praiseworthy effort a success. Persons desiring to contribute for this purpose may send subscriptions to this office and we will see that the amounts are faithfully applied. To protect this entire cemetery by a suitable fence would also be an object worthy of general contributions.

Oct. 1, 1881

Feb. 10, 1961



THE CROWD GATHERED ABOUT THE SOLDIERS' LOT IN PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY.

Prospect Hill Cemetery.

The Prospect Hill Cemetery needs help. As many of the lot owners know, at present there is no money available for mowing and trimming the grass, cleaning up the roadways—all the general upkeep that is necessary to make this resting place for our loved ones a creditable reflection of our attitude toward those who have gone before.

It is hoped that everyone who has any interest or takes pride in the cemetery will join others of his brothers in this common interest at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, at the cemetery, with a truck if he has one, a mower, trimming shears, and a willingness to contribute two or three hours of work.

For any further information, Mr. Gerald Snow, Mr. Edward Lewis, or Miss Cora Stevens may be contacted.

Let's all put our shoulders to the wheel so that we may be justly proud of our cemetery.

Cemetery Clean-up Campaign Under Way.

Power lawn mowers, hand-pushed mowers, grass clippers and rakes were all put to good use early Wednesday evening when about 50 men, women and children responded to an appeal made by the officers of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association to turn out and help trim the grass and clean up the cemetery.

Miss Cora Stevens, association treasurer, said it was both pleasing and gratifying to see such a large turnout and that she felt they had accomplished a lot in the few hours they had between 6:30 o'clock, when the group assemble at the cemetery, and until darkness set in.

She said there were a number of family groups at work and that one group came in from Siasconset. Miss Stevens also highly praised the volunteers who came from the Tom Nevers Naval Facility. "These boys really have no personal interest in the cemetery, coming from all parts of the country, so that we are especially grateful to them for helping us out with the work," she stated.

Miss Stevens attributed the large turnout to "civic pride" in wanting to see the cemetery look clean and neat.

She said there is still more work to be done and that many said they would go to the cemetery again Sunday and next Wednesday evening to continue the good work that has been started.



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

TEACHER LEADS WAY—Miss Harriet Williams, a retired school teacher, does her share of the work of cleaning up the Prospect Hill Cemetery. She is being assisted by two men, Stewart Mooney and Robert Ray, and the two Ray youngsters, Robert Jr. and Lawrence.

Cemetery Is Improved

Volunteers Better Nantucket Ground

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, June 21 — Scenic beauty of the sloping terrain of Prospect Hill Cemetery is rapidly being restored.

The graves of the dead who have no relatives left to maintain them and have been left untouched for a year, are being sheared of grass and weed growth that had stood more than a foot high.

There is still a lot of work to be done and it won't be long before the whole cemetery beautification project will be completed if the enthusiasm demonstrated by 30 volunteer workers, 10 of them women, continues for a few more days.

Appeal Assured

They were the group of public spirited citizens, representing men and women engaged in all types of work and professions, who answered the appeal of C. Gerald Snow, president of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association, for help in restoring the beauty of the historic burial ground.

They came with power lawnmowers, the old push-type mowers, rakes, trimming shears and shovels. Working in pairs the group was deployed through the cemetery to select first the grave in most need of immediate attention.

When the work on the graves has been completed the volunteers will turn their efforts to eliminating the scrub growth in unused sections of the cemetery and cleaning up the paths that lead to the graves.

Until this year the income from a perpetual care fund had been available to defray the expense of caring for most of the graves. An increase in the cost of this work, during recent years, had made it necessary to use a considerable portion of the principal of the perpetual care fund.

Income Depleted

The use of part of the principal depleted the income to a point where officers of the association were forced to curtail the work of maintaining the beauty of the cemetery.

Last week President Snow and other officers of the Cemetery Association sent out a call for volunteers to come to their aid.

The spontaneous response of the 30 volunteers will mean Prospect Hill Cemetery will once more be one of the beauty spots on the island.

June 22, 1958



Photo by S. Day

A short time ago vandals entered the Prospect Hill Cemetery and knocked over four gravestones in the Orison V. Hull family lot. Howard Hull has received a letter from District Attorney Edmund Dinis advising him that the matter is being referred to Detective-Lieutenant Charles Harrington for investigation.

Sept. 1, 1961



The parade group stands at attention at the Prospect Hill Cemetery as the services are conducted for the dead of all wars. In foreground are members of the school Drum Majorettes who made an attractive appearance in the parade.



The parade stopped at the Veterans' Plaque on Federal Street for a brief ceremony and the placing of a wreath. Past Commander Robert H. Christman of the American Legion, read Governor Furcolo's Memorial D. Proclamation.



Chief Petty Officer John Paul Johnson, USN, Parade marshal, leads the marchers from Main Street into Liberty Street on the way to the GAR Monument for a ceremony.



Leaders of the veterans' organizations and auxiliaries, members of the Board of Selectmen, and others are shown at the grave of the Unknown Soldier during the ceremonies.

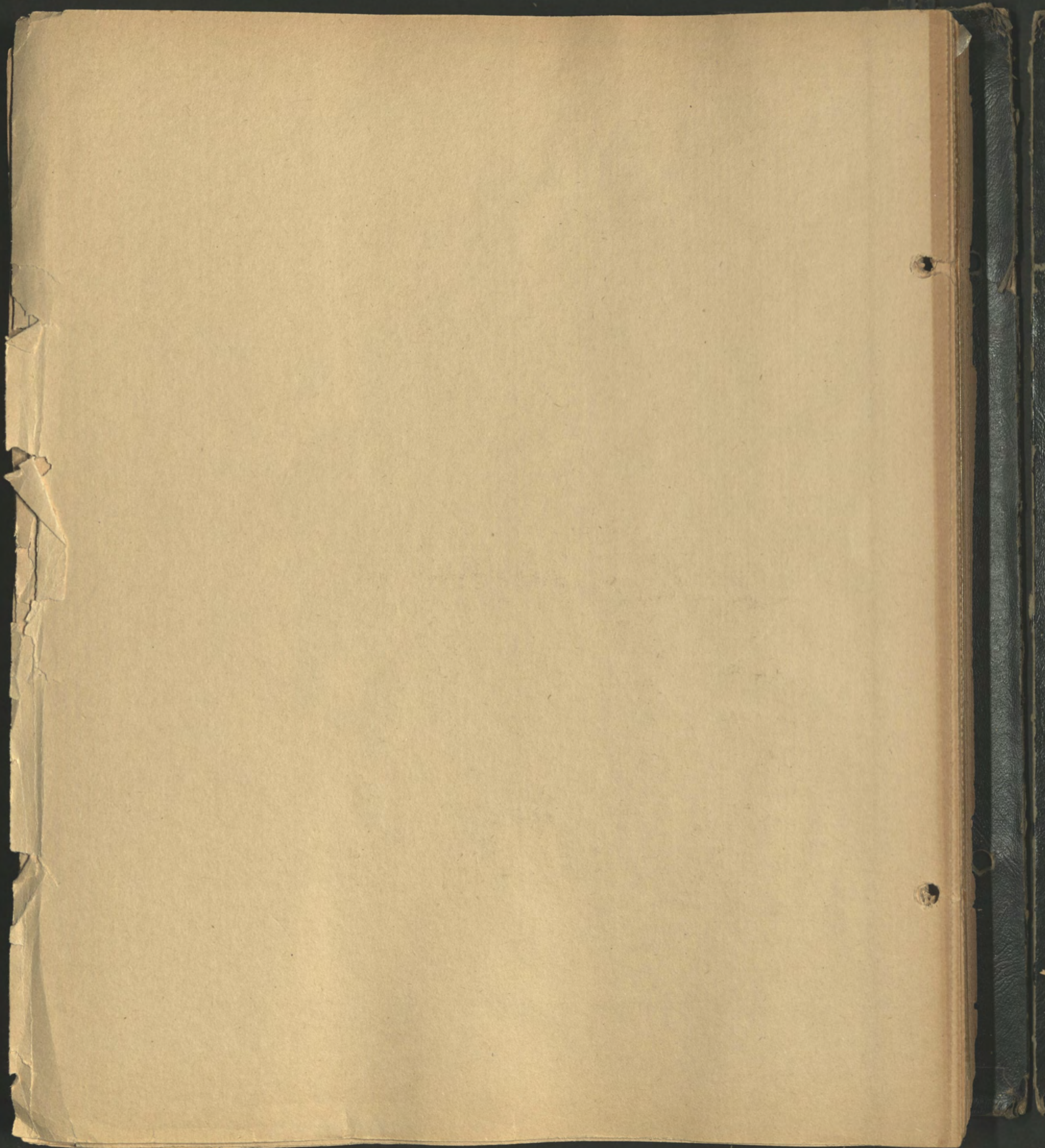


The Boy Scouts made a snappy appearance in The Memorial Day parade. They are marching up Main Street led by Explorer Scouts Bernard Slosek, left, and William Kenyon, right.



The Nantucket school children participated in the parade and placed flowers and evergreen on the grave of the Unknown Soldier during the exercises at the cemetery.

June 3, 1960



Model of Proposed New Town Building Shown.

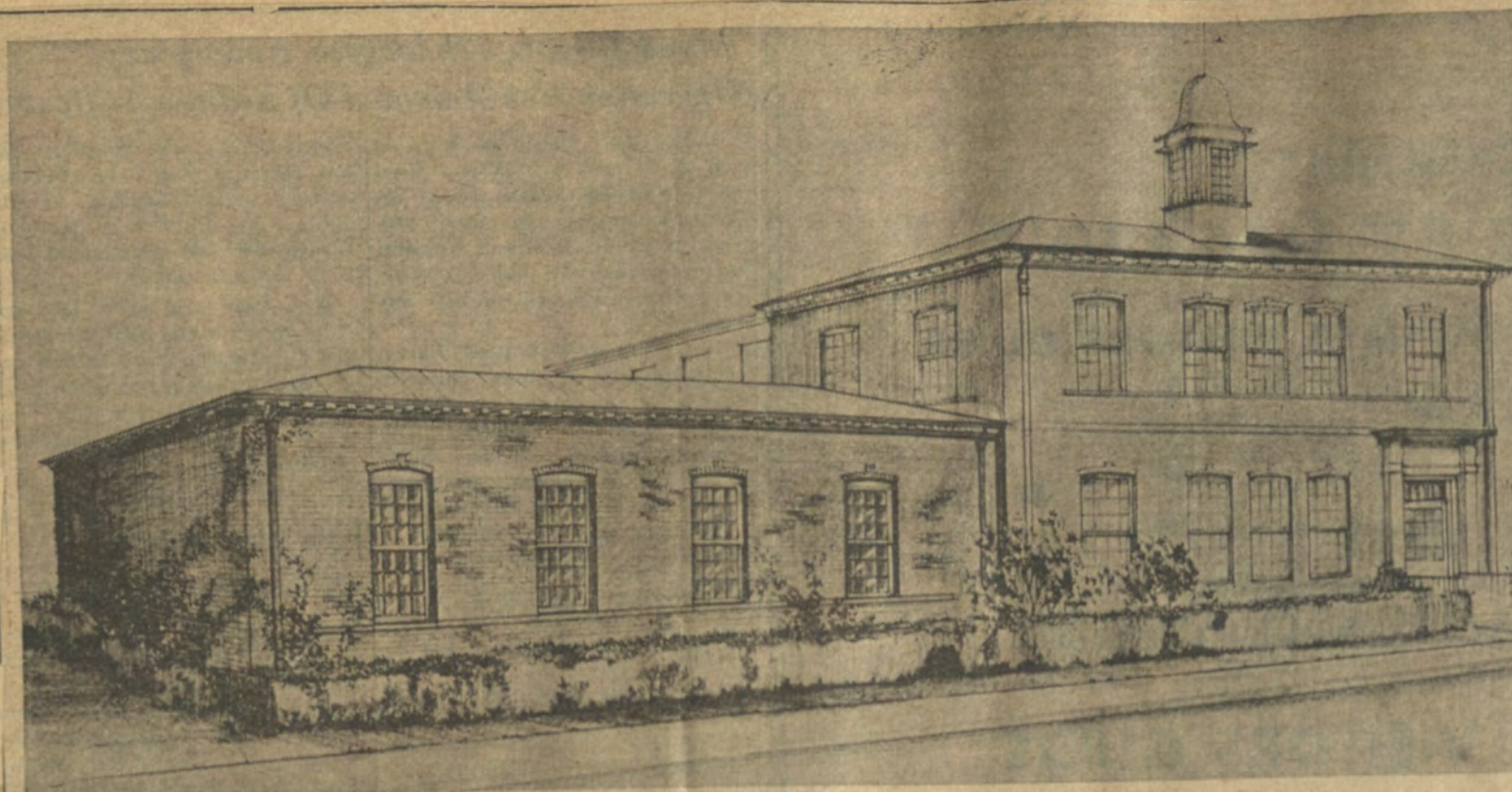
A model of the proposed Town and County building, to be acted upon March 8 at the Annual Town Meeting under Article 57, was received this week, and has been placed on display at the former A & P store on Main Street. Shown below is a view of the front of the building, which will face on Federal Street. The Veteran's Memorial Plaque, which is presently located to the south of the Sanford House, would be relocated on the corner of Federal and Broad Streets as shown.



The new building, a large three-story structure, would take in the entire length of the block between Broad and East Chestnut Streets, with both the Sanford House and the Hosier House being removed. Its construction would also require that the Police Station be removed, new quarters for the Police Department being located in the new building, on the East Chestnut Street side. As may be seen in rear view above, looking from South Water Street, the town-owned building now housing the Information Bureau and other Town offices would also be removed, and the cleared area would be used as a parking lot. The building would house all of the Town and County offices, which are now spread among three buildings, and would also provide room for Probate, District, and Superior Court sessions. It is believed that a few external changes would be made to the rear of the building in order to make a more attractive appearance. The cost of the building has been estimated at \$490,000, of which \$125,000 would be taken from available funds and the remaining \$365,000 raised by a twenty-year bond issue.



Feb. 19, 1960



Architect's sketch of new addition to the Nantucket telephone exchange building on Union Street which is now under construction and will house dial equipment to be installed by next June. Addition will cost \$102,000.



The Board of Selectmen, the leaders of our town government, are shown in session at their quarters in the Sanford House. Left to right are: Kenneth N. Pease, John F. Meilbye, Chairman Sidney H. Killen, Secretary James K. Glidden and Arthur L. Desrocher

Photo by S. Day

May 30, 1962

Town to be Asked to Create a Park and Recreation Committee

The Nantucket Civic League announces that, together with five other island organizations, it will recommend to the voters that at the 1960 Town Meeting they vote to create a Park and Recreation Commission and to establish a Recreation Area. The purpose of the recommendation is to provide for residents and summer visitors programs and facilities for recreational and cultural activities not now provided for general public participation under any organized program.

Briefly the recommendation is based upon a plan,

First: To create a Recreation Commission at once by appointment, to serve for one year, during which period a long-range program for developing and carrying out recreational and cultural activities and facilities would be developed, together with a program for financing as capital expenditures the cost of the necessary facilities. The program would be submitted to the Town for approval.

(Continued on Page Four)

Second: To designate as a Recreation Area under the control of the Recreation Commission about 27½ acres of land known as the Jetties Beach area, now owned by the Town, and

Third: To combine the Recreation Commission and the Park Commission (now by law the Board of Selectmen) into one Commission — Park and Recreation, by the election of five resident taxpayers of the town at the next Annual Town Meeting (1961) to serve as Park and Recreation Commissioners.

This plan will insure advantageous use of land for the most part not heretofore used although owned by the town for many years. Combining the Park and Recreation Commissions into one Commission will provide the requisite broad powers needed and avoid duplication of effort, personnel, etc., and conflict of authority. It will create a Commission whose sole responsibility will be to develop much needed recreational and cultural programs and facilities and the "Park Lands" from which the town should benefit in many ways especially as over a period of time the projects developed should become self-sustaining.

This program is the result of many months of work. In September of 1958 the Civic League announced it would explore the possibility of the revival and promotion of informal entertainment and cultural activities such as were carried on so successfully in past years by the League through the "Nantucket Neighbors." Survey work proceeded throughout the winter and spring months of 1959 and unsuccessful efforts were made to secure the necessary personnel.

It was finally decided that today's needs presented too big a problem to be handled by a voluntary organization such as the "Neighbors," in fact, by anyone private organization. So in July, 1959, at the League's annual meeting of members, it was announced that as an alternative it would explore the advisability of creating an agency or commission to promote and handle on a self-supporting basis, an enlarged field of recreational and cultural activities presently desired and needed.

During the summer months of 1959 the League officers consulted with numerous informed individuals and acquired knowledge of how other communities were successfully handling such a problem. The most successful examples were found to be planned and managed under conservative but constructive, progressive, continuing leadership and control provided by local town ordinance or county or State legal authority. The road to a sound answer was found to be in the provisions of Chapter 45, General Laws of Massachusetts which deals with Public Park and Recreation facilities.

Community understanding and support being essential for successfully carrying out any large scale recreational and cultural program, the League invited, through their Presidents, five other local organizations to join in the formulation and presentation of a plan to the town. All promptly accepted. Those invited, and their presidents, were Nantucket Firemen's Association, Clyde H. Cartwright; Nantucket Fishermen's Association, Philip B. Grant; Nantucket Historical Association, George W. Jones; Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce, Inc., Dr. Ralph L. Harvey; Rotary Club of Nantucket, Roger A. Young; the Nantucket Civic League, being represented by Tell Berna, Vice-President, with W. Ripley Nelson, President of the League, serving as Chairman of the group.

Meetings held throughout the fall have resulted in the adoption of the plan now recommended to the Town. The governing bodies of the six named organizations have given their approval. The plan has been submitted and discussed with the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. Both Boards have been asked to express, at an early date, their approval or disapproval of the plan. Representative Robert F. Mooney has been most cooperative and helpful in obtaining valuable suggestions and data from State authorities as to how other communities have successfully put into effect and carried out such plans. Town Counsel Roy E. Sanguinetti has given necessary and valuable legal advice.



Elected for Eighth Term

In 1939, George E. Grimes was elected to the Board of Assessors for the first time, receiving 345 votes in a field of seven candidate and topping his nearest competitor, Joseph M. Larkin, by 21 votes.

In 1942 he ran unopposed and secured 9522 out of a possible 1,282 votes.

Only 572 votes were cast in 1945, but Mr. Grimes, again unopposed, received 467 of them.

Running without opposition in 1948, he was given 858 of the 1,088 votes cast.

In 1951 he received 897 of the 1,084 votes, still with no other candidate for Assessor on the ballot.

In 1954, with 1,421 votes recorded, Mr. Grimes received his highest total, 1,059, still no opposition.

Of 1,375 votes cast in 1957, Mr. Grimes received 1,044, and, after a span of 21 years, his right to the position of Assessor was challenged this year for the first time since his original election to the Board of Assessors. In Monday's election he received 775 votes out of a possible 1,379.

March 11, 1960

Dec. 18, 1959

